hold

16 PAGES
IS 600

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to
Al-Fajr
2025 I Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20006

AL-FAJR
JERUSAL
PALESTINIAN WEEKLY
(USPS 696-630

SEPTEMBER, 13, 1985
VOL. VI, NO. 280

exp. 86/04
Serial Records Division
Harvard College Library
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Army Turns Territories Into War Zone

by Maher Abukhater

Palestinian civilians were wounded, Arab centres curfewed, and hundreds of local residents intimidated as Israeli regular arms and settler militias intensified their patrolling of West Bank and Gaza streets. Witnesses report the army and settlers are working hand-in-hand to arbitrarily stop and interrogate passersby. At the same time, Arab resistance to the occupation witnessed a noticeable upsurge last week in spite of the tough Israeli "iron fist" policy.

In Hebron, four residents, including a 12-year-old boy, were shot by soldiers September 9. Israeli reports alleged that the four failed to stop when ordered to do so by army patrols, and instead ran away. Israeli army reports said soldiers in the market area in Hebron ordered a man to stop, but he began instead to run away and three other local residents near him began running as well. The army then opened fire at them, seriously wounding the boy and the three other men. One of the men who was hit was able to get away. He later turned up at Alia hospital in Hebron.

The boy, identified as Sadi Tawil Abu Sneineh, underwent heart surgery the same evening at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem to which he was transported by helicopter. He was later reported to be in stable condition. Two of the other three wounded — Ali Mohammed al-Rifa'yeh, and Adnan Ahmad al-Rifa'yeh, both 25 — were also transported to Hadassah for immediate treatment. The fourth — Maher Mohammed Atrash, 21 — went to Alia hospital in Hebron where he received treatment. Ali Rifa'yeh was injured in the shoulder and knee, Adnan Rifa'yeh in the leg and arm and Atrash in the leg.

A fifth Palestinian resident of the occupied territories was shot September 11 by soldiers patrolling the streets of Ramallah. Hassan Ahmad Abd al-Fatah, 20, of al-Bireh was hit in the leg when soldiers opened fire at him for no apparent reason. Abd al-Fatah was transported to the Ramallah government hospital before being transferred to Hadassah, a move which indicates his injuries are serious.

The spate of shooting at civilians in West Bank towns came in light of increasing tension in the occupied territories following the stationing of regular Israeli army there to quell the growing attacks on Israeli targets. Previously only Israeli reserves were stationed in the area.

The last of these serious attacks was the stabbing of two Israeli soldiers in Hebron's central market September 3 in which one was killed and the other seriously wounded. (An Israeli driver was stabbed in Gaza September 5, but reports indicate it was not for nationalist reasons. (See related story p.3) Settlers in Hebron and elsewhere in the Israeli-occupied areas pressured the government to take immediate action against the local population to deter any further attacks on Israelis. The Hebron stabbing brings to 15 the number of Israelis killed in the occupied territories this year.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (Labour), who flew to Hebron September 5 to meet settlement leaders, was quoted as saying that the government intends to apply new measures in the occupied territories which are guaranteed to end attacks on Israelis. While Peres was speaking, reinforcements of Israeli soldiers were beginning to patrol the major West Bank cities.

Residents of Nablus and Ramallah complained that the army is employing humiliating and provocative means in their searches of the local population. Some residents expressed the belief that the army has been brought from Lebanon to treat them in a manner similar to the way it treated residents of southern Lebanon. Some told stories of how soldiers beat residents and searched them using metal detectors while the residents were kept standing facing the wall with their arms spread for long hours. In Hebron Israeli soldiers arrested two youths last week after they found pocketknives in their possession. In Ramallah, Tulkarm, Nablus and Jenin residents reported arbitrary and thorough searches of cars and of soldiers stationed at almost every corner of the cities. Many residents are reportedly staying indoors or avoiding areas with heavy concentration of soldiers in order not to make direct contact with them.

Hebron merchants, who returned to their vegetable shops in the market area after a six-day curfew clamped on that section of the city, reported that local residents were avoiding their shops for fear of the army nearby. The wholesale vegetable stores are located near Abraham Avinu settlement in the heart of Hebron, only metres away from where the attack on the soldier took place. Merchants complained that shoppers are afraid to get close to the soldiers for fear of being harassed and maybe shot at. Some residents said the soldiers were out of control and were behaving as if they had the right to act in any way they please with the local population.

The government, on the other hand, claimed the heavy concentration of soldiers in the occupied Arab towns was to prevent Jewish settlers from entering and inciting the local population. Residents, however, refuted this claim saying that the soldiers stop and search Arabs only and spend most of their time harassing the residents. They also said settlers are patrolling the streets alongside soldiers who do not seem to mind their presence.

Settler presence was heaviest in Hebron. Settlers opened a way from the Jewish neighbourhood at Abraham Avinu to the old city in an attempt to increase their presence in the predominantly Arab section of the town. The settler moves were interrupted by orders from the government. It was feared that their action was illegal and might cause friction with the Arab population. Government officials were critical of settler vigilantism in the West Bank and Gaza. The settlers have been demanding that the government beef up security in the occupied territories, or else they would take matters into their own hands. As a result, according to attorney Ali Ghuzlan, the government sent in more soldiers with strict orders to make life very difficult for the local population hoping that this would appease the settlers and get them off the streets.

Continued on page 13

Finger on the trigger, Israeli army paratroopers roam the curfewed alleyways of Casabah quarter in Hebron.

Arafat Offers Peace for Land 5
US Policy in Mideast 6
Arab Education in Jaffa 7
The Yellow Press 10
The Woman Prisoner 11

Press Conferences Draw Public Attention to Detentions

by Awad Abdel Fattah

Calls to local and world public opinion to help stop the Israeli campaign of administrative detention and deportation in the occupied territories were issued in two press conferences organised this week in West and East Jerusalem. A total of 69 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza have been placed under administrative detention (arrest without charges or trial) during the past few weeks.

The first conference was initiated and organised by the newly-formed Committee of Lawyers for the Defence of Administrative Detainees and Deportees, in the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, September 8. The second was held three days later by the Israeli League for Human Rights in the Beit Agron building, the government press office in West Jerusalem.

Sama'an Khoury a Palestinian journalist who was formerly managing editor of *Al Fajr* weekly, chaired the first conference and translated from Arabic to English for the audience. He outlined the latest repressive measures taken by the Israeli government throughout the West Bank. He explained the real purpose of these measures. The measures, Khoury said, are intended to appease the ultra right-wing settlers, and to pave the way for "a liquidationist settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict." He added that Israelis want a silent and subjugated West Bank and Gaza.

Isma'il Tazziz, head of the Pharmaceutical Union, strongly condemned the present wave of administrative detentions and compared the regulations behind it to those in Nazi Germany. He referred to a comment by Ya'akov Shapiro, a Jewish lawyer, who said that these regulations, which were issued by the British in 1948, didn't even exist in Nazi Germany. He wondered about the fact that the persecuted of yesterday have become the persecutors of today."

Lawyer Abed Assali, who spoke on behalf of the Committee for the Defence of Administrative Detainees and Deportees, explained the legal aspects of these measures. He said that administrative detentions are based on instructions regarding security and that these instructions allow the commander to arrest any person for 96 hours wihthout a specific charge. The detainee is then brought to a judicial board – called the military objections committee. "From my own experience," he remarked, "appearing before an objection committee is a mere farce." He explained that the detainees appear before the objections committee collectively and the sentences are issued collectively. The committee does not look into each case eparately.

"Last Friday," he said, "thirteen detainees were taken to the courtroom but no evidence was presented against them." After five hours of deliberations with the members of the committee and intelligence officers, the judge decided to approve the arrest orders and said that he would explain later.

The mothers of two detainees told journalists how Israeli soldiers broke into their houses and arrested their sons. Gameeli Atallah, from Dheisheh camp, said: "At midnight, as we were sleeping, there was a strong knocking on the door. Israeli soldiers abruptly pushed their way in and herded the whole family into one corner, ordering them to put their clothes on. They took my 17-year-old son Nasser outside and beat him in front of us, and they prevented anybody, including me, from intervening." She said that this was the eighth time her son has been arrested without trial, "which means he has not done anyting against the law."

The Human Rights League Press Conference was opened by the head of the league, Yousef el-Gazi, who strongly condemned the current Israeli repressive campaign and said that it creates a vicious circle of violence. "Occupation," he added, "breeds racism, violence and Kahanism."

The next speaker was Ya'akov Shai from the *Yesh Gvul* (There is a Limit) group, who started his speech by saying that the Israeli occupation is now exposing its real face. "I was educated," he said, "that my family survived the Holocaust, and today it is difficult to believe what is going on.... fascists are controlling every corner."

The legal aspect was discussed by advocate Felicia Langer, who described administrative detention as a "dirty" weapon used by the Israeli occupation against the oppressed. She explained that "the administrative detainee is not given the possibility to defend himself, because he and his lawyer are not allowed to know 90 percent of the 'evidence' or the material against him."

The last speaker was writer Mordechai Avi Sho'ul, one of the founders of the Human Rights League. He predicted that the present campaign of repression will not subjugate the people in the occupied territories. He remarked that the Israeli government thought that the harsh measures which were taken in the early 1970s would quell Palestinians for ever. "But this proved to be an illusion, and the only solution is to put an end to occupation."

Book and Play Banned by Censor

In a flurry of red ink, Israeli officials banned a book translation and a play this week, according to reports in the Hebrew press.

The afternoon paper *Ma'ariv* reported September 5 that Israeli authorities had banned an Arabic translation of *The Lebanese War*, a book by Yehuda Ya'ari, the Israeli TV Arab Affairs correspondent, and Ze'ev Schiff, the daily *HaAretz's* military correspondent.

The book, published in Hebrew and English in 1983 deals with the drawbacks of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It was recently translated into Arabic by the al-Jahl Publishing House. According to *Ma'ariv*, the translation was banned because it contains an introduction by Abu Jihad, the deputy general commander of the Palestinian revolutionary forces.

The ban goes in line with standard Israeli policy which prevents Palestinians under occupation from reading nationalist literature. There are at least 300 books which are officially banned by the military authorities from circulation in the Israeli occupied areas. In addition, all books not given permission to be distributed are considered illegal.

Yehuda Ya'ari told *Al Fajr* that a copy of the translation, which was sent to him by the Amman-based publishing house at his request, was confiscated by Israeli authorities on the Allenby Bridge. He managed to get a copy, however, and he praised the accurate translation.

In similar action, the Israeli Film and Play Censorship Board banned a new play dealing with a reserve officer on duty in the occupied territories. *The Jerusalem Post* reported September 6 that the ban "was made on the grounds that the production evokes attitudes of revulsion against the state, the IDF and the military government in the territories."

The play entitled *Ephraim Returns to the Army* and written by Yitzhak Laor was scheduled to go on stage at the Haifa Municipal Theatre. The theatre's artistic director Yehoshua Sobol said he intends to appeal what he called the "totally unjustified" ban.

The board claimed the play would be inciting and provocative, especially if shown to an Arab audience. It also said the play contained "clear and hinted comparisons between the Israeli administration of the territories and the Nazi occupation of Europe."

Sobol disagreed that there was a deliberate attempt to compare the Israeli army and the Nazi regime. He said that everything of a factual nature in the play is regularly found in television news reports and in the press. He believes the issue is topical and that the audience should be mature enough to judge for themselves.

Syrian National Social Party member Mariam Khair al-Din who exploded her car at an Israeli-SLA checkpost in South Lebanon September 11. AFP/photo.

Camp Fighting Continues Despite Ceasefire

Intermittent fighting continued for the second week around Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp on the outskirts of West Beirut in spite of ceasefire agreements reached under Syrian supervision between the warring Shi'ite Amal militias and Palestinian defenders of the camps.

Press reports from Beirut said more than 60 people have been killed and 150 wounded in the fighting which began September 3. Amal is attempting to take control of the refugee camp and its surroundings. Most of the dead and wounded were Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinian-Amal hostilities took a different form September 5 when 19 Palestinian civilian residents of Hureik neighbourhood just outside Burj al-Barajneh were reported to have been killed in cold blood by Amal militiamen. A statement issued in Beirut September 6 by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said a woman and four children were among the massacred civilians.

Press reports quoted an unnamed official in the Syrian Nationalist Socialist Party, an ally of Amal, as saying that he saw six bodies in a building of a complex where about 500 Palestinians live. He said a seventh person later died of wounds inflicted earlier. The official said between 40 and 50 Amal militiamen entered the building and openly executed everyone who admitted to be a Palestinian. Another official in the same party said he counted 15 bodies outside the building.

Amal officials confessed to the crime but said a deranged member of the militia who lost family members in the fighting the previous day had entered the building and shot four men and a woman in revenge before other militia members retrieved him. Foreign reporters in the area expressed doubt at the Amal story saying they saw Palestinians being brutally beaten by Amal men in one of the Amal headquarters. Amal officials said earlier the militia drove 14 Palestinian residents of the building where the massacre took place to its headquarters "to protect them." The reports from Hureik neighbourhood said the Palestinians living there left to more secure areas.

In Burj al-Barajneh camp, an agreement was reached September 10 between Amal, the Palestinian National Salvation Front and Syria for a joint supervision of ceasefire in the camp. Units made up of each group headed by the Syrians were supposed to patrol the fighting area in order to make sure the ceasefire holds. Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karameh had earlier urged Syria to send observers to the warring regions of Beirut to act as a deterrent force. A 20-man Syrian force was, as a result, dispatched to Beirut and immediately took positions in the camp and around it. Fighting reportedly died down following the dispatch of the force.

In southern Lebanon, meanwhile, a suicide car bomb was said to have killed 19 Israeli soldiers and caused the destruction of two military vehicles, according to a statement by the Syrian Nationalist Socialist Party which took responsibility for the attack which occurred September 11 near Hasbiyeh. Press reports from the explosion area, however, said the car blew up near a checkpost for the Israel-backed South Lebanese Army killing the driver and wounding two of the SLA members.

The driver was named as 18-year-old Mariam Khair al-Din from the Beqa'a valley. She was driving a Toyota loaded with 300 kilogrammes of the highly explosive TNT, according to the Syrian Nationalist Socialist Party report.

Gazans Say Stabbing Criminal, Not Political

An Israeli military force arrested two residents of Rafah in the Gaza Strip September 6 on suspicion of knifing an Israeli in Palestine Square in Gaza a day earlier. The military immediately issued an order to demolish two rooms in the residences of the two suspects, Yusef Abu Irfaneh and Said Afaneh.

An Israeli military spokesperson said the two Rafah residents were arrested following a long car chase across the Strip. Unconfirmed reports from Gaza said the stabbed Israeli, Moshe Fitussi from Beer Sheba, identified his attackers to the police who were able to locate them hours after the incident and arrest them.

Reports from Gaza also said the attack was criminally, not nationally motivated. They said Fitussi was a drug dealer and his assailants had gotten into a fight with him and then decided to attack him. The reports, however, could not specify the exact nature of the dispute. A Gaza military spokesperson denied this story and insisted that the attack had nationalist motives. However no Palestinian organisation claimed responsiblity for the attack.

Sources in Gaza said the Israeli military knew the incident was criminally motivated but made it look like part of the new wave of attacks on Israelis in the occupied territories. The military immediately clamped a curfew on Palestine Square following the incident and arrested scores of Arabs, including old men and women. A nine-year-old Gaza child, Atif Isleem, was wounded in the legs by bullets Israeli soldiers fired at the local population who ran for shelter immediately after the incident. The child was hit near his home, about two kilometres from the site of attack. He was immediately transported to al-Shifa hospital. He is reported in good condition.

The curfew on Palestine Square was lifted late September 8 but 50 shops in the Square were ordered closed until further notice. Travellers through Gaza days after the incident reported a heavy military presence in the city. Soldiers stopped and checked residents at random. The travellers said the manner in which the Israeli soldiers were conducting searches was provocative. They said the soldiers interrupted traffic and pushed the Gazans about.

Settlers hide behind large placards in a six-man demonstration outside *Al Fajr's* Nablus Road office

Settlers Demand Al Fajr Closure

Complete with police and borderguard protection, right-wing Israeli settlers demonstrated in front of the offices of Arabic *Al Fajr* in East Jerusalem, September 11. The settlers were demanding the newspaper's closure.

Six settlers carrying placards in Hebrew and English reading "Al Fajr — Al Killer", "The Killers Kill, the Government Sleeps" and "Al Fajr is the Mouthpiece of the Killers" stood across the street from the newspaper's office on Nablus Road. The Israeli police gave permission to two of the settlers to gather there. The settlers left on their own after 40 minutes.

Azmi Abu Gharbiyya, an *Al Fajr* journalist, said that this is not the first time *Al Fajr* has been subjected to such inciting action. "I wonder whether the Israeli authorities would allow us to demonstrate in front of an Israeli paper under police escort," he added.

In the past, settlers have threatened several times through letters sent to *Al Fajr* and through public statements to break into *Al Fajr's* office in order to silence it.

Two months ago, unknown vandals broke into the paper's offices after midnight and damaged some furniture and equipment, including an expensive telex machine.

Two other attacks occurred in the past. In the first, a molotov cocktail was thrown at the offices two years ago causing minimal damage. In the second, a bomb was placed at the paper's entrance in 1981, but it didn't explode.

Abu Gharbiyya told *Al Fajr*, "We will not succumb to the threats of the racist settlers and the paper will continue to convey the message of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

The Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories issued a statement condemning the demonstration. The statement also called on Arab journalists to be alert to foil any possible attacks on them and their institutions.

After Nine Years

Military Returns Commando's Remains

The Israeli military handed over the remains of Khalil Abdallah Mustafa Awawdeh to his family September 3, who was immediately reburied in his village according to Islamic tradition. Awawdeh, from Dura (population 15,000) in the Hebron district, was killed November 8, 1976, during an armed clash with Israeli soldiers in the Hebron hills. His body has been kept in a secret cemetery since then.

The body was handed over nearly four months after the Israeli High Court turned down an appeal to allow the family to open the coffin and inspect the remains, an action the authorities have been resisting.

Awawdeh is the third case in which the remains of Palestinian commandos have been returned to their families to be reburied in their birthplace. The first two were Abd al-Aziz Rajoub and Ibrahim Khalid Salim, both from the Hebron district. Rajoub was killed May 29, 1972, during a hijacking attempt of a Belgian airliner to Lydda airport and Salim was killed in the same battle as Awawdeh. Rajoub's remains were returned to his family in March and Salim's in April.

The bodies had been kept in a closed military area in an undisclosed location in the Jordan Valley. An agreement for their return was reached earlier this year between the dead commandos' families and the Israeli military government in the West Bank. The families were represented by attorney Mazen Qubti of Jerusalem. The military, however, did not agree to return the bodies without strict conditions. These included not opening the coffin; no one other than military personnel being present during the exhuming of the bodies; no nationalist burial celebration being held; no more than 60 persons closely related to the deceased attending the reburial ceremonies which should take place at night; and the coffin not being wrapped with a Palestinian flag. The military also has the freedom to decide when and where to return the bodies and to give the family no more than 24 hours notice before it hands over the remains.

Rajoub's and Salim's families agreed to all the conditions and got the remains of their sons early in the year. The Awawdeh family, however, demanded to be allowed to at least open the coffin to make sure the remains belonged to their dead son. When the military refused, the Awawdeh family took their case to the High Court which on May 12 upheld the military's conditions. The Dura family conceded

Awawdeh's remains were reburied after midnight September 3 under heavy military guard. Only close family members were present. Awawdeh was born in 1937. He was survived by his wife and 10 children — six boys and four girls. He joined the Fatah guerrilla movement in 1968.

Israel Shuts Al-Manar Press Office

The Jerusalem-based *al-Manar* Press Office was ordered closed for six months by Israeli occupation authorities on September 9. No specific reason was given.

Sources reported that at 1:00 pm September 9, eight officers broke into the office on the third floor of al-Nuzha building. They conducted a thorough search for an hour. They then confiscated all press documents, newsletters, local newspapers and translated materials from the Hebrew press found in the office. The press office owner, Ribhi Shweeki, said he was given the order which was signed by the acting O/C central command who wrote that this step was taken in accordance with emergency regulations to "maintain public peace."

The Israeli news media quoted Israeli authorities as claiming that the office was serving the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a leftist faction of the PLO. Shweeki strongly denied this, however, and told *Al Fajr* that the office, which was opened earlier this year has been operating on a purely journalistic basis. He said the office collects news and does translations for local and foreign press and news agencies. "The Israeli occupation authorities," said Shweeki, "always prepare false pretexts for their repressive and undemocratic measures." He told *Al Fajr* that he intends to take the case to the Israeli High Court.

In response to this measure, the Arab Journalists Association issued a statement condemning the closure. It said that this step "which comes in the framework of the recent Israeli suppressive campaign in the occupied territories constitutes continued gross violation of freedom of expression."

This is the third time Israeli authorities have permanently closed a journalistic institution in the occupied territories. In 1982, *Al Quds* Press Office and the bi-weekly *al-Shira'* magazine were permanently closed.

Family of Ailing Detainee Requests His Release

The family of Khair al-Din Barham, from Nablus appealed to international and human rights organisations to intervene on behalf of their father Khair al-Din, 55, who is currently being held under administrative detention. The family pleaded for his prompt release in order to receive immediate medical treatment. The Barham's appeal to the Israelis fell on deaf ears. Like the rest of Palestinian administrative detainees, Barham has not been charged with any crime or put on trial.

According to Khair al-Din's son, Omar, his father suffers from a heart ailment, a chronic intestinal infection and a slipped disc. He said his father was supposed to enter the hospital for intensive medical care but his arrest on August 28 delayed his treatment.

Khair al-Din, a father of eight, served a three-year prison term in 1969. According to his family his health deteriorated during his imprisonment. He is a self-employed merchant in Nablus. His family complained that Khair al-Din has done nothing to warrant placing him in administrative detention.

Khair al-Din Barham

In Nazareth

Conferees Seek Ways to Regain Islamic Land

by Sami al-Aboudi

Alarmed by increasing unlawful disposition of public Islamic *waqf* property, hundreds of Palestinian Arabs in Israel took part in the second General Islamic Conference in Nazareth, September 7. The conference was called to discuss ways of retaining the property and putting it at Arab disposal. Public Islamic property in Israel is estimated at 500,000 dunums of areable land in addition to many shops and buildings. It was all seized in 1948 by the Israeli government under the notorious "Absentee Property" law.

The conference was called for by the General Islamic Committee in Israel, which was duly elected by the first conference in 1977. Their task was to discuss ways of leading the struggle to free Islamic property. More than 400 delegates from all over the Galilee, Triangle, Naqab, and the coastal area crowded the Diana Cinema in Nazareth. Members of the Islamic Committee, including several Arab local council heads and Arab members of the Knesset, gave a full account of the condition of *waqf* properties, and Muslims in general in Israel. Nine speakers gave a detailed account of how *waqf* property has been used and illegally disposed of by Israeli government appointed officials. They told of how mosques and graveyards have been desecrated.

Waqf Property

A major study on *waqf* property in each of the major Arab cities inside the 'green line' was carried out and its findings presented to the conferees. Fathi Fourani, an Islamic Committee member from Haifa, pointed out that large parts of the major cities like Haifa, Akka, Jaffa, Lydda, Ramleh and Beer Sheba, are Muslim properties. He pointed out that *waqf* land amounts to nearly 1 million dunums in addition to 300,000 dunums of agricultural land. This represents about 16 percent of the total agricultural land area of Palestine, which helps explain why the Israelis were so eager to administer it.

Fourani also told conferees that buildings owned by *waqf* are numerous. In Akka, he said, about 90 percent of the old city markets are *waqf* property, in Jaffa about 70 percent, and in Ramleh 33 percent.

Fourani also described the extent of damage done to Muslim holy places and cemeteries. "The Martyr's (Shuhada') graveyard in Haifa, which contains the remains of the martyred leader Iz al-din al-Qassam [who commanded the 1936 Palestinian revolution — ed] and the first unionist Sami Taha have been dug up like many others," he said. He pointed out to the ongoing sale of public Islamic property, whether it be mosques, graveyards, shops and buildings or land by Israeli-appointed custodians. The property has been sold to Israeli investors in violation of Islamic code. He referred specifically to the case of the Haifa area *waqf* committee head, Suhail Shukri who after his Israeli appointment illegally sold a great deal of *waqf* land. He fled to the US in 1983 with US 1 million dollars for Muslim property he sold to Israeli investors. Fourani listed a number of Muslim cemeteries which have been desecrated and dug up. Public buildings have been built on them like Tel Aviv University. The Ramleh cemetery was dug up and replaced by a Jewish cultural centre, bank and clinic. Fourani also said mosques like al-Siksik Mosque in Jaffa was converted into an Israeli restaurant and nightclub, Al-Wihdeh Mosque converted into a synagogue.

Arab members of Knesset, local council heads, and other notables preside over the Second General Islamic Conference in Nazareth September 7.

The Speakers

Mohammed Zeidan, the Islamic Committee secretary, opened the conference with a brief historical outline of Israeli policy since 1948. Zeidan pointed out that Israeli laws which were drafted after 1948 were written specifically to suppress Arabs who remained on their land. He explained that the "Absentee Property" law, and the laws which authorised the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs to appoint public Muslim officials were legislated in order to keep Muslims and Arabs in general weak and under Israeli domination. This was in contrast to Ottoman rule in Palestine when Muslims were the dominant majority. Muslims then authorised each religion's leadership to administer its own affairs independently without government intervention.

Nazareth Mayor and Knesset Member Tawfiq Zayyad of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) welcomed conferees in the name of Nazareth residents and its municipal council. Zayyad drew repeated applause when he called on the Israeli government to return Muslim property and to pass a law which allows Muslims to elect their own committee to administer their own affairs. This committee would then appoint public officials to supervise Muslim property. Zayyad, one of many MKs who presented unsuccessful bills to the Knesset to free Muslim property pointed out that the Israeli government's policy towards Muslims is part of their general discrimihatory attitude against Arabs in general in Israel. "It is a political and national issue," he said.

Mapam Knesset member Mohammed Wattad spoke on his efforts to convince Israeli officials to relinquish Islamic property and to allow Muslims to run their own affairs. He explained that he approached Israeli officials with Arab demands, to no avail. Wattad reiterated that the Israeli government policy was discriminatory on a national basis.

MK Abd al-Wahab Darawsheh from the Labour Party said he submitted a draft proposal to the Knesset's Interior Committee calling for Muslims to have the right to elect their own representatives and to run their own affairs.

Mahmoud Na'amneh, head of the Islamic Committee, and Fathi Fourani then gave their detailed account of Muslim property and the extent of Israeli disposition of these properties.

Conferees received many messages of support from the Progressive List for Peace, the Druze Initiative Committee, the Arab Students Committee at Hebrew University in West Jerusalem, among many others. The Islamic Committee also received a total of IS7.7 million in donations which it said it would use to help carry out its mission.

At the conclusion of the conference, which lasted for nearly four hours, a previously prepared draft resolution was read to conferees. They were given an opportunity to make comments and to suggest amendments to the draft, after which it was adopted. The nine-point draft called for the right of Muslims to administer their affairs through elected representatives; the return of all *waqf* property, and an end to discrimination against Arabs. It also entrusted the General Islamic Committee, which was elected at the conference, to follow up on the implementation of these resolutions.

Fathi Fourani, in an interview with *Al Fajr*, described the conference as a "complete success." Fourani said that the committee will consider calling a one-day general strike to protest discrimination against Muslims. They will also continue to work through the Knesset and through mobilising public pressure on the Israeli government to relinquish Islamic property, he said. He also revealed that they will contact international organisations, including the Islamic Conference Organisation and UNESCO to support their struggle.

Past Efforts

Arab efforts to free Islamic property date back to 1959 when MK Tawfiq Toubi from the DFPE, attacked a government bill calling for *waqf* Trustee Committees to be appointed by the government to administer *waqf* property. He then said that the bill was aimed at preventing the return of the property to Muslims.

In 1960, Toubi suggested the Knesset allow Muslims to elect an Islamic Council which would be authorised to appoint Muslim judges and to administer Muslim affairs. He also presented another bill in 1964 calling for freeing Muslim property.

In 1961, a general popular conference was held in Akka at the initiative of the DFPE in which demands for freeing the Islamic property were reiterated. In 1965, under public pressure the Israeli government decided to turn over Muslim *waqf* property to the appointed *waqf* Trustee Committees in each city. These committees, however, proved to be merely servants of Israeli interests, when they began selling off the property to Israeli investors. In 1977, the first Islamic conference convened in Nazareth. The General Islamic Committee was then elected to follow up on the struggle to liberate Muslim property.

Seven More Held in 'No Charge' Detention

Seven more Palestinians from various parts of the occupied territories were arrested under the newly restored administrative detention measures September 12. This brings the total number of administrative detainees since the campaign began on August 28 to 69.

Like their fellow detainees, the detainees have been served with a renewable six-month detention order in accordance with Israeli military Order Number 87. The orders, which were issued by the Israeli Military Commander of the Central Region, General Amnon Shahak, do not specify a reason for the detentions. They instead merely mention the vague phrase "security reasons." The names of the prisoners have not been released to the press.

Meanwhile, Israeli Minister of Police Haim Bar-Lev said September 11 that the Israeli Prison Authority is planning to open temporary tent prisons for administrative detainees. The 69 administrative detainees are now being held at the new Jnaid prison in Nablus.

PALESTINE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN NATIONAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 20-21 1985 CHICAGO IL

"JUST DON'T SAY " YOU DIDN'T KNOW!"

Panels:
- Celebration Honoring Former Palestinian Prisoners
- Israel: The Global Context
- Israeli Right-Wing Violence & Palestinian Rights
- "Just Don't Say You Didn't Know — The Campaign for Palestinian Rights

Speakers: (partial list):
- Prof. **Israel Shahak**, Chairperson Israeli League for Human & Civil Rights
- Special Invited Guest: **Bassam Shaka'a**, Mayor of Nablus, Occupied West Bank
- Prof. **Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi**, University of Haifa
- **Muhammad Hallaj**, Editor Palestine Perspectives
- **Adrien Wing**, Nat' Conference of Black Lawyers
- **Grace Halsell**, Auth. "Journey to Jerusalem"
- **Jane Hunter**, Editor Israel Foreign Affairs
- SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT: **Mustafa al-Kurd**, Palestinian Folk Singer from Jerusalem

Conference rate (seats from a 1982 poster) available from PHRC, which was formed by Israel Committee in Solidarity with Birzeit University.

Area cars Congress Hotel 520 S Michigan Chicago IL
For more information write PHRC Conference 220 S State St # 308 Chicago IL 60604 or call 312 987-1830

The Dawn
AL FAJR
AL FAJR — Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

Publisher:
Paul A. Ajlouny
Editor:
Hanna Siniora

Tel: (02) 281035
P.O. Box 19315
2 Hatem at-Taee St.
East Jerusalem 91192

Telex no.s:
Jerusalem: 26467 omar il
Washington: 64677 omar uw

Al Fajr was founded in 1972 by Yusef Nasr, who edited the paper until his kidnapping in 1974. The English edition was first published in April 1980. **The Dawn (Al Fajr) Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly (UPS 686630)** is published weekly for $50.00 per year by Paul Ajlouny, 16 Crowell St., Hempstead, N.Y. 11550. Second class postage paid at Hempstead, N.Y.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Al Fajr 2025 I Street, N.W., Suite 925, Washington D.C., 20006.

'Quality of Life'

One year ago this fall, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin issued statements about improving the quality of life in the occupied territories which were widely publicised. The Labour Party officials' statements, which echoed the phrase used by US Secretary of State George Shultz, were timed to precede Peres' fundraising campaign at the White House last October. During the media blitz that followed, reports said that the new Israeli government would allow a new Arab bank to open in Nablus and a cement factory in Hebron, appoint Arab mayors to replace the deposed mayors, and reopen Najah University before the end of the four-month closure, in addition to easing restrictions on life in the occupied territories in general.

Since those flowery statements were made the Nablus Bank has not opened, no licence was given to open the cement factory in Hebron, not a single Arab mayor was appointed, no municipal elections were held (in violation of existing local law), and an-Najah University stayed closed for a full four months. Indeed, the university was closed again for two months this summer for no apparent reason.

In addition to breaking all the promises they made, the Labour-led Israeli government has reinstated administrative detentions (62 Palestinians are now held without charges) and deportations (one Palestinian has been forced to leave voluntarily for three years and four others are awaiting Israeli court judgments). Ten Palestinian women were barred from leaving for the UN women's conference, and the Hospice Hospital in East Jerusalem was closed down despite local and international protest.

If what we have been seeing during the last year is the Labour Party's Improvement in the Quality of life, what would the deterioration of the quality of life be??

Leave the Camps Alone

Once again Palestinians have turned their attention to the plight of their brethren living in the Lebanese refugee camps. And once again those who are committing the crimes against the stateless Palestinians are Arabs supported militarily, financially and morally by a major Arab country.

As if it is not enough for Palestinian energy to be dedicated to exposing and protesting oppressive Israeli measures, Palestinian and Arab energies now have to be diverted to finding ways to relieve the besieged camps in Beirut. The beleaguered camp residents have not yet picked up the pieces from the last attack, let alone the 1982 Israeli invasion.

Palestinians of all factions have repeatedly expressed their desire to be left out of the internal Lebanese conflict. The only participation and cooperation they have offered is against the Israeli occupation. The oft-repeated accusation that Palestinians and the PLO triggered the internal Lebanese conflict is clearly a myth.

The only request Palestinians have continued to make is that they be left alone to protect themselves, a request which is quite understandable in view of the highly armed and hostile Lebanese populace. In an explosive region like Beirut this request is not out of the ordinary. Indeed such a request would never have been necessary if the Arab nation had carried through one percent of its promises and slogans.

Arafat: "Land for Peace"

Arafat to US: "We need international guarantees."

by Ghassan Bishara

On a large movie screen located in the heart of DC's Washington Hilton Hotel, Chairman Yasir Arafat spoke to more than 900 members and guests of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) taking part in the fifth annual convention of the Washington DC-based Arab-American organisation. While reaffirming longstanding PLO policy regarding significant world and regional issues, Arafat mentioned Israel by name as a party to the peace process envisioned by the PLO and Jordan.

The ADC convention took place September 5-8. Speakers from the United States, the Arab world, Israel and South Africa presented their views regarding the Middle East conflict, as well as likely solutions to it. At the peak of the conference, an estimated crowd of more than 1500 from all corners of the US was in attendance. The climax, however, judging from audience response, was reached when Chairman Arafat spoke to the conventioneers via satellite from Amman, Jordan. The PLO Chairman appeared relaxed and spoke confidently in English, interrupted only by repeated rounds of applause from the audience. Arafat then answered a series of questions from Washington in detail.

Arafat spoke about his visit to UN headquarters in New York in 1974, and the gesture he made for peace at the time. "I didn't want to drop the olive branch from my hand," he said, adding that his aim remains the achievement of a comprehensive peace. The PLO Chairman went on to outline his organisation's involvement in achieving peace, recalling the PLO's role during the Iran hostage crisis, the war between Iran and Iraq, and more. Asked about his insistence that the USSR play a role in an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Arafat said that there are two superpowers in the world, and both must play a role in securing permanent peace in the area. In addition, he said, "We need international guarantees," and the two superpowers, together with the other members of the UN Security Council, can provide that better than one of the two powers alone.

Arafat reaffirmed Jordanian-Palestinian historic ties, and the necessity that the two work together for mutual interests. He said that in 1983, the PLO and Jordan agreed to form a confederation, a decision reaffirmed at the PNC held in Amman late last year. Asked to comment about Secretary Shultz's recent remarks, believed intended for the PLO, that those who perpetrate acts of violence rule themselves out of the peace process, Arafat, with measured restraint, answered in an uncommonly mild way.

Arafat confirmed that the first meeting between a US team and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will be of an exploratory nature. Later on, he said, another team would be formed to continue the talks, if and when the peace process continues.

Arafat also rejected the preconditions posed for the PLO by the US, particularly in light of the fact that the US contends that it would rather initiate talks without preconditions. The US refuses to recognise the PLO until the latter recognises Israel's right to exist and UN Resolutions 242 and 338. In addition, the US insists that it will not enter talks without some guarantee that the first meeting will lead to direct negotiations between the parties.

With a wide smile on his face, Arafat went on to respond to questions about the Amman formula, praising it as a means to achieve peace. It is "a formula of peace in exchange for land," he said, adding "peace for land." Regarding Syria's role in the peace process, Arafat said that the Amman formula refers to the parties to the process as being all five members of the UN Security Council as well as the parties to the conflict, which he named as "Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, the PLO or Palestine, and Israel." It is believed that this is the first time that Chairman Arafat has mentioned Israel by name as a party to the peace negotiations.

Arafat thanked the Lebanese people for all they have done for the Palestinians and pledged his organisation's continued support for Lebanon's territorial integrity and national unity. The PLO Chairman concluded by answering a question in Arabic, during which he thanked the audience for their support of the PLO and called upon all Arab-American organisations to unite. Only through unity, he said, can we guarantee the achievement of a just peace. ■

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

US Policy in ME

Halfhearted Try is Worse Than None at All

by Kate Rouhana

Ever since the May 17 1983 agreement between Israel and Lebanon became defunct even before the ink on it was dry, the US has scrupulously steered clear of the Middle East. An area that could not be simply classified into black and white, the Middle East was simply too complex and wrought with risks to mess around with. Then there were elections, Israeli and American, that delayed the process another full year.

At the start of his second term, however, Reagan — confident that he had the support of the American public — decided to give the Middle East a second look. This was not unusual; American presidents in their second term almost inevitably seek to consolidate historic achievements to be remembered by. The time seemed right with a Jordanian-Palestinian *rapprochement* in the works and Shimon Peres at the head of a "national unity" government in Israel.

Also aware that the time was right the Jordanians and Palestinians made a herculean effort to come up with a joint platform and go on the peace offensive. At that time, last winter, all the analysts were wisely nodding their heads and saying that by September the process would be underway. September seemed an awfully long time off — but here we are and the initiative has fallen flat on its face.

Much of the interim was spent dallying about finding "acceptable" Palestinian representatives and debating the fine points of process. After the Palestinians had painstakingly selected seven candidates for the joint delegation, Israel issued a vehement rejection of both the delegates and the process proposed by the Jordanians. Peres tried to patch up the damage by formulating a counter peace plan but the effort was transparent, and no one took it too seriously. One point of that plan was that Israel would be ready only to talk with Palestinians from the occupied territories. In line with this policy, Peres later stated that the two Palestinian delegates from the West Bank and Gaza were acceptable to Israel. The US, only a degree less patronising, said that it would accept any Palestinians who were thoughtful, constructive, and "seriously interested in peace."

Imagine if the US placed a similar qualification on Israeli delegates, or if the PLO refused to talk to any Israeli who had arrived in the country after 1948. The uproar would be heard the world over. Indeed, the idea is absurd. So why should the Palestinians be treated this way? Just because they have no government to get outraged? Yet their government-in-absentia, the PLO, is recognised by more world countries than is Israel. Rightly, Jordan and the PLO stood their ground and refused to suggest any additional names.

Beyond the question of who (which should never have been an issue, given the acrobatics the PLO has shown itself willing to submit to), there is the question of how. Israel, again, has refused the entire procedure advocated by the Jordanians and Palestinians and has insisted on negotiations only according to its terms: direct talks without preconditions or none at all. The US has asserted that it is not allowing any country to veto its policies, yet despite this it was clear to all concerned that the US did exactly that three weeks ago. In an odd about-face Murphy came all the way to the Middle East to talk to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and went home without having done so. The reason: Israel's vehement objection to anything except direct talks.

Israel is always calling the US an "honest broker," or an objective and appropriate third party to monitor negotiations. Yet, when the US tries to consult with all the parties to the conflict to feel out their positions (in order to be a better third party), Israel cries that there is a dangerous shift away from objectivity in the US position. The paradox is clear: Israel is content to call the US an "honest broker" as long as the US sticks to the range of options and procedures acceptable to Israel. The US, by trying to be both "honest broker" in the Middle East conflict and "special friend" to Israel, dooms its initiatives from the start. The contradiction is irresoluble. The US cannot be Israel's closest ally when negotiations are not on the agenda and suddenly switch masks when time seems right to get things moving. The Arabs are not dumb.

It is precisely this game of musical chairs that makes the Palestinians suspicious of the US. They have seen too many instances where the US simply submitted to Israeli demands, or pretended objectivity while favouring Israel. Murphy's list to Amman is only the latest example of such submission. This is why the Palestinians insist on an international conference as a forum for direct negotiations. They have no trust whatsoever in the US as a sole mediator, and they want the USSR to be an equal partner in the talks, as well as other Arab and international countries, to balance the clout Israel has with the US. Incidentally, Gorbachev's invigorated foreign policy moves would indicate that he has no intention of letting the USSR stay on the sidelines in any major Mideast talks, and that will be another factor the US must take into consideration.

In this latest round of Mideast chess, Israel is clearly afraid and on the defensive. For once, the Jordanians and Palestinians have come forward clearly in pursuit of peace, and Israel can no longer hide behind that old canard, "there's no one to talk to." The Likud party, for one, is afraid that it will be faced with a situation where territorial compromise might become possible. And they would probably risk war — even civil war — to avoid territorial compromise. The Labour Party is afraid of just such a confrontation, which would plunge the country into chaos and mean risking (and probably losing) their fragile edge in the government. The whole country, except for a small minority, is ridden with deep fear that they will somehow have to face the Palestinian problem head-on by being forced to talk with the PLO.

The Israeli government has recently gone on a big campaign, both at home and abroad, to forestall just that possibility. Chief among the hyperbole directed overseas was Peres' recent statement that the PLO "is an impossible organisation" and that Yasir Arafat s conduct is "contemptible beyond words... He is a man of double talk and double murder." At home, the Knesset has just passed a law outlawing individual Israeli contacts with PLO members — a law which effectively tells the world that Israel will not even let its citizens explore possibilities of peace with the PLO or try to convince them to change their positions. Next on the agenda is a law outlawing any political parties who identify with the PLO. And in the occupied territories, the cabinet reportedly decided to crack down on Palestinian institutions that support the PLO.

This reaction can be seen as a kind of panicked scramble to forestall any possibility that the PLO might ever receive the status of a legitimate partner for peace talks. Yet this attitude is incomprehensible in light of the universal truism that peace can only be made against enemies. You cannot talk peace with quislings who do not have the clout to implement agreements. And the fact remains that Yasir Arafat is the only man on the Palestinian scene today who can effectively sign an agreement and make it stick. This is precisely why Israel so vehemently tries to discredit Arafat by painting him as a murderer and pointing to divisions within the PLO as "proof" that he doesn't represent anybody. (If this were the criterion, Peres would fail as well.)

The hysterical claim that the PLO only wants "to destroy Israel" is a psychological smokescreen for fear of dealing with what the PLO represents: the Palestinian people as a whole, which Israel displaced and must now compensate. Not only is Israel not willing to accommodate those people within her 1948 borders (the classic nightmare of every Israeli), but Israel is not willing to turn the West Bank and Gaza over to the Palestinians and let them accommodate their own people there. Israel will only consider solutions for the current residents of the West Bank and Gaza, and only certain solutions at that.

The fact is that Arafat has made clear over and over again that the PLO is ready for peace — through his own statements, and through emissaries the world over. Arafat has announced that he would recognise Resolution 242, in effect recognising Israel, in return for only US (not even Israeli) recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination. Most recently only last week, Arafat offered to exchange "peace for land" and appealed to Israelis to support his initiative. What clearer signal of peaceful intent could there be?

Given this constellation of contradictory forces, the US must understand that dabbling in peace is worse than staying entirely away from the area. If the US is not seriously totally committed to devoting the next two years to this area, then it had better step down right now. Raising expectations and prompting local leaders to gear up for the grand performance and then dropping the whole matter like a hot potato is far more devastating to everyone involved, including the US. It would be better not to interfere at all than to stir up a lot of waves halfheartedly and back off. ■

Kate Rouhana is a member of Al Fajr's editorial staff.

LETTERS

An Appeal for Peace

To the Editor:

Now, more than ever before, is the moment for all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli peace accord to cast aside their differences and unite in peace.

Of course the differences are legitimate, and depending on what side you are partial to will make that side's grievances appear more legitimate than their opponent; but unless we realise the current pressure being exerted upon the Palestinians — Yasir Arafat in particular — we will never reach the point whereupon these differences may be resolved.

The message is clear to Arafat: Join Syria against Israel or watch your people massacred. Also, the choice is tempting for Arafat since he has always lived by the sword. If we are not wise enough to understand that Arafat needs us to help him have faith in peace, we then are no better than the Syrians.

Are we not civilised people? Indeed there are many of us who want to see Arafat suffer much pain and sorrow for his past. Where does it end though? Isn't this how the war started?

Instead of bathing in Arafat's anguish, can we prove ourselves true and come to his aid should his people be attacked? Such an action will be worth thousands of treaties and agreements. But beyond the political, to unite to save our enemies' lives is proof to mankind that there still remains much good in the world.

By immediate and unconditional peace and support for one another many lives will be saved. And if that is not enough, since there must be something in common for the people to transcend their hatred for one another once peace arrives, the moment I suggest will heal many bad memories, because when enemies come together in times of crisis, more often than not, they remain the closest and best of friends for all time.

Lastly, if not for yourself, seek this peace in the name of humanity, and let the greatest of mankind's challenge — living together in peace — begin.

Fred Tabaracci
New York, NY

Arab Education in Jaffa Ignored

by Awad Abdel Fattah

Until recently the attention of Jaffa's Palestinian community has been focused on the appalling conditions Israel's discriminatory policy against Jaffa Arabs has created in terms of housing, development, and social services. Now this focus has shifted to the problem of education which has been deteriorating rapidly in Jaffa, in view of the neglect by Israeli authorities.

Every year more and more students failing their school term drop out of school altogether and join the mostly unemployed Arab workforce in Jaffa. Others simply become loafers or drug addicts, the number of which has significantly grown in recent years. Yet, the Israeli Education Ministry has not seen fit to seriously tackle the problem in the three existing government schools, two of which are elementary and one secondary. Bitterness and frustration is clearly felt in the approximately 15,000-strong community. Palestinian residents of Jaffa and particularly those with children in government schools have done their best to overcome the problem by pressuring concerned Israeli circles into action. So far their efforts have been in vain.

Old Jaffa, where the city's Arabs are concentrated, in dilapidated and neglected conditions. Government funds are channelled to the Jewish sector of the city.

The parents have lost faith in the overall quality of their children's education as they have lost faith in the government's stated intention to begin improvements. Fakhri Jdai, an activist in local affairs, said, "After six years of learning, a student will only be able to write his name." Though a rather extreme charge, statistics show that Jdai may be right. On exams organised by the Israeli Education Ministry at Ukhowwa Elementary School last year, 80 percent of the 450 students failed. At the other elementary school — Hassan Arafi, established during the British mandate — 85 percent of the 311 students passed, "but with low marks, averaging 60-65," said one of the teachers. In addition, out of the 120 students who entered the Jaffa secondary school in 10th grade three years ago, only 30 students remained in the 12th grade, and of those only four students passed the matriculation exams.

This deplorable situation in one of the most sensitive and important areas of life has developed, Jaffa residents say, because of Israeli neglect of Arab education in the city. An example of such neglect can be seen in the outdated facilities. The Hassan Arafi school building has not changed a bit since the establishment of the state of Israel, "even not a single window has been replaced," said Ibrahim Shehadi, the head of the Local Students' Parents' Committee. He added that the entire building which consists of only 17 classrooms does not even meet the basic requirements of a school. In fact, it consists of several vacant homes with adjoining walls. Last year the Israeli Education Ministry closed two classrooms in the school, and they intend to close another five in the coming academic year. The number of attending students has dropped partly because of the continued destruction by the Israelis of houses in the vicinity of the school. Students whose families were living close to the school have been forced to move to other places and consequently attend other schools.

For these students who have been forced to leave Hassan Arafi school over the last few years — estimated at more than 150 — no new school has been built. Most of them were integrated into the other elementary school, el-Ukhowwa, where overcrowdedness is already a problem with at least 45 students per classroom. There some of the students study in pre-fab shelters with no airconditioning or heating.

El-Ukhowwa is located in the midst of el-Ajame, the only remaining Arab quarter in Jaffa. It consists of 12 classrooms. The school was built in the mid-1960s by the Tel Aviv municipality after pressure was exerted by the Arabs of Jaffa following the expulsion of 275 weak students from one of the three existing private schools. Private education — once sponsored by Christian missionaries — now absorbs 45 percent of Jaffa's Arab students.

Ibrahim Shehadi told *Al Fajr* that the Israelis plan to tear down the Hassan Arafi school completely because it is located on al-Ajame beach, an area meant for new construction of Israeli villas. "We are not against the destruction of this school," Ibrahim Shehadi said, "but the plan does not call for the building of an alternative school."

Both of the two government elementary schools lack many facilities and basic equipment, such as teaching aids, in addition to the overcrowdedness and destruction of classrooms. "Most of the students don't know what a laboratory means," said Ibrahim Shehadi. Mohammed Zebdi, a teacher in the government secondary school, el-Shamila, told *Al Fajr* that of the 110 students who came last year from the elementary schools, about 40 were classified in the lowest level, most of them unable to read and write. Mohammed has sent his own son to study in one of the private schools, believing like the rest of Jaffa that the education there is much better than in the government schools. But not all of the Jaffa Arabs can send their sons and daughters to private schools because of the high tuition fees imposed. Each student has to pay US 25-35 dollars a month, a sum which is very steep for the mostly poor Arab population of Jaffa.

Recently, some parents started to send their children to Jewish schools in Jaffa. "This reflects their deteriorating economic situation which does not allow them to study in private schools, and their distrust in the government schools," explained Nakhleh Shakar, an active member in the League for Jaffa's Arab Affairs, which was established seven years ago to wage a struggle for improvement in the life and housing conditions of Jaffa Arabs. Although the Arab population of Jaffa are grateful for the major contribution which the private schools have made to Jaffa education over the years, they are critical of the schools because "they throw out weak students and don't care about improving their educational level," said one of the parents. In response to this criticism, Henry Heliw, principal of Frere School established in 1882 by the French Catholics at the request of Palestinian bishops, said that the school has to maintain a high standard of teaching. With regards to the high tuition fees he said that the school became self-supporting after the emergence of the state of Israel, and that without levying tuition fees the school would no longer exist. He also pointed out that the school cannot absorb more students, especially since no new rooms have been added to the old school building. This also applies to the other two private schools, which were established long ago.

With the growing deterioration in the standard of education in the government schools, the parents' concern over the future of their sons and daughters increased. They initiated the formation of a committee in 1980. They first turned to the principal of el-Ukhowwa school for reasons behind the problem. They were told that if they bought textbooks for the needy students things would improve. The seven-member committee immediately raised money from the parents and bought books for the needy students, after the Tel Aviv municipality refused to provide free textbooks, as it does with Jewish students. Ibrahim Shehadi told *Al Fajr* that the municipality claimed that the economic situation did not allow it to buy the books, and that the free books provided for the Jewish students were financed by the Jewish Agency and other Jewish organisations. "But," he said, "we know that our sons and daughters are the last ones to be cared about by the Tel Aviv municipality and other Israeli circles."

The Parents' Committee also initiated other steps on the way to improving the educational atmosphere in the school, such as clearing debris from the school yard, setting up a garden and decorating the classroom walls. But the committee soon discovered after things didn't improve that the primary reason does not lie in the lack of textbooks, but in the lack of qualified principals and teachers, "a policy encouraged by the Israeli Education Ministry in the Arab sector," remarked Fakhri Jdai. He added that the principals of the schools are not qualified and that half of the teachers are appointed by special interest mediation, and not according to teaching efficiency.

The principal of el-Ukhowwa school is an older Jewish woman, whom school parents have been demanding be dismissed for the last five years. They hold her personally responsible for the deteriorating teaching standards at the school. But the Israeli Education Ministry has ignored this demand and many other demands for reform of the teaching system in Jaffa's Arab schools.

The League for Jaffa's Arab Affairs has sent scores of protest letters to Israeli circles, including the Knesset, and met with officials in the Israeli Ministry of Education since 1979 of whom they demanded serious attention be paid to the Arab schools of Jaffa. All this has fallen on deaf ears. The latest meeting occurred last March between an Israeli education inspector and the Parents' Committee. So far there has been no answer to the committee's demand concerning the teaching process.

In view of this disinterest on the part of the Israeli authorities, the Parent's Committee began offering courses for the weak students in which they employed teachers from the town, some of them selected teachers from the schools. In the last two years more than 200 students have benefited from these courses. "But this," said Ibrahim Shehadi, "is not a radical and permanent solution for the problem, but an attempt to alleviate the destructive effects on the students, and to prove our determination to stay here and not be forced out by deteriorating conditions." ■

"Al-Haq," LSM's symbol in Arabic, means right and justice.

Law in the Service of Man

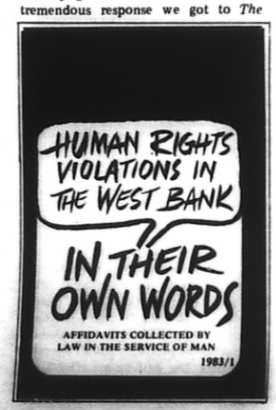
Upholding the Rule of Law

by Kate Rouhana

What began in 1979 as an effort by two young Palestinian lawyers to explain the complex legal situation in the occupied territories to local residents is today an internationally respected human rights organisation called Law in the Service of Man (LSM). An affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, LSM is a non-political organisation dedicated to upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and educating the public about legal complexities in the West Bank and Gaza.

This is not always an easy task in an area under military rule. Several sets of laws are in force to varying degrees and the Israeli military commander, in his capacity as executor, legislator and judiciary, frequently issues new military orders that have the force of law. "There can't be a rule of law unless people know what the law is," explained LSM co-founder Jonathan Kuttab, 33, who lived in the US for 10 years and studied law at the University of Virginia. "In 1979, people had no idea that there were 800 military orders, and they had no access to these orders. After 1967, the Jordanian bar was dissolved and lawyers had no society to safeguard their interests. We wanted to explain the legal situation to the public and to complain about the lack of availability of basic law in the hands of the people."

Kuttab, a member of the New York Bar, and co-founder Raja Shehadeh, 34, who is a member of the English Bar Association, began to research the legal *status quo*. In 1980, they published a book entitled *The West Bank and the Rule of Law*, which described existing laws and detailed military orders issued by the Israeli military government. "Because of the tremendous response we got to *The West Bank and the Rule of Law*, the military government wrote a book in response. The authorities took our work seriously, and so did the outside world. Therefore we thought we could have some influence," said Kuttab.



And so Law in the Service of Man was born. The two lawyers set up an office in Ramallah, in 1981, hired field workers and staff members, and began to focus their research on specific laws. LSM published pamphlets explaining two military orders with wide-ranging implications – 854 (on academic freedom) and 947 (which replaced the military government with a civil administration). A legal library, the first of its kind in the West Bank, was set up for researchers and local residents who wished to study the law of the land. It contains the only complete set of Israeli military orders in English, as well as works on international law, human rights, and Jordanian and other locally applicable laws.

In addition, LSM painstakingly trained field workers to collect affidavits and details on human rights violations according to the legal rules of evidence. "Here the idea was to play a role of documenting. In a highly politicised part of the world, there was amazingly little credible, objective evidence on the situation that was not highly biased by one perspective or another," explained Kuttab. "We were very careful to obtain courtroom quality evidence." Field workers learned not to depend on hearsay or to ask leading questions, and to collect evidence as accurately as possible. From the start, LSM documented various practices in the occupied territories including travel restrictions, house demolitions and sealings, town-arrests, and land confiscations. This information eventually provided the basis for another publication called *In their Own Words: Human Rights Violations in the West Bank*, which was published by the World Council of Churches in 1983.

Interventions

The amount of information that LSM gathered by research and field studies eventually allowed them to adopt a more active role and to try intervening. This meant that LSM would write about a particular violation of human rights either to international organisations (particularly the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International) or to the Israeli military authorities, or both. Usually evidence of violations would be presented, and relevant laws cited. Sometimes LSM would write asking the Israelis to clarify the law when no legal precedent could be found or the laws appeared to contradict each other.

"We always receive answers from the Israeli authorities, especially the legal adviser to the military government, who answers every letter, and the attorney general sometimes. They give reasons, which is interesting for us," said Muna Rishmawi, 27, a fulltime LSM staffer who studied law at Ain Shams University in Cairo. "So at least they can't take it for granted anymore that they can do as they like. They have to give reasons."

In the past, LSM has decided to intervene in a variety of cases, among them the lack of judicial appeal against West Bank military decisions, the power of military courts to review terms of detention, the closure of the gate to the old city in Nablus in July of 1984, the shooting by an Israeli soldier of five youths from Dheisheh camp in July of 1984, the arrest of students just before or during *tawjihi* (high school matriculation) exams and the existence of a mine field without warning signs in Ya'abad. In these and other cases, LSM wrote to the Israeli military administration, the attorney general, or the defence minister, as well as informing various international human rights organisations and asking them to intervene.

In the case of the *tawjihi* students, for example, LSM began monitoring the exams in the spring of 1983 and found that dozens of students were being arrested just before or during the exams, and then released after the exams were over without charges and without even being questioned. (If a student misses even one exam, he cannot matriculate and must repeat the entire year and retake exams in all subjects, even those he already passed). When the same thing happened at the next *tawjihi* session in January of 1984, LSM sent documents on the cases to the Israeli authorities and expressed concern that these students were apparently being arrested in order to prevent them from continuing their education. They also wrote to the International Commission of Jurists, Amnesty International, and the Israeli Association of Civil Rights and asked them to study the documents and intervene if they thought the case merited it. While LSM never received a direct answer from the military administration on the charges, the Israeli Association for Civil Rights did. The authorities asserted that the arrests occurred during the exams by coincidence, not by intention, and that the arrests were made for security reasons, not for the express purpose of preventing students from pursuing their education. At the next *tawjihi* session in June 1984, the number of students arrested in this manner dropped drastically to three.

Despite their success in the *tawjihi* case, many other interventions have not had such a visible impact. Indeed, one of the problems LSM faces – aside from the tough question of which human rights violations to focus on – is effectively disseminating the facts they so carefully collect. Without a government to stand behind them, LSM must rely on its own reputation for credibility and on international organisations to act on the information they are given. Ultimately, however, LSM must rely on the international community, an amorphous body to say the least. "The problem is that the civilisation of human rights is a very young civilisation. The infrastructure to support the operation of a community that transcends national boundaries and narrow political interests, the logistics and operational infrastructure don't exist and it's up to us to create it," explained Charles Shammas, a member of LSM's steering committee, at a recent workshop in Holland on international law and the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Education for the Future

But LSM is not only interested in mobilising the international community, it also tries to educate the local Palestinian public about the rule of law and about human rights in general. "The Palestinians have never had the opportunity to live under the rule of law," said Kuttab. "They are used to arbitrariness by the rulers, therefore it's difficult for them to accept concepts of the rule of law – not because they don't believe in them, but because they have no experience of living under such rule." LSM tries to bridge the gap by widely distributing pamphlets informing residents of their rights in given legal predicaments. These include publications in Arabic on legal methods of land protection, town-arrest, and search, detention and military courts. LSM also publishes a weekly column in *Al Fajr* Arabic daily called the "Legal Corner." These columns, written by Muna Rishmawi, have covered subjects as diverse as women's rights, freedom of speech, workers' rights, the law of tort, the role of the police in protecting and applying the law, the right of access to a lawyer during investigation and trial, corruption in government, and the different treatment Arabs and Israelis receive in West Bank military courts. The columns also described various human rights organisations to the public. "As an organisation, we very much want to encourage people to use the law, to know what it is, and to explain the principles of the law," Rishmawi told *Al Fajr*.

More significantly, LSM is now preparing a curriculum for a human rights course which it will encourage Palestinian high schools and universities to use. This way, young Palestinians could be trained to think in terms of promoting the rule of law and protecting human rights. "Even when occupation ends and we have our own Palestinian state, we will still need to uphold the rule of law. That's an important thrust of what we're doing," explained Kuttab. "These principles apply everywhere – in Arab countries, among Palestinians – not only when it suits us." ■

UPA

United Palestinian Appeal, Inc.
Suite 409 • 2100 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 659-8007

The land which is slated to be a nursing college near Maqassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives.

United Palestinian Appeal

Channelling US Corporate Profits to Palestine

by Ghassan Bishara

The United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), incorporated in 1978, has achieved the status of a tax exempt organisation in the US, and more recently became the "first Arab-American organisation to become registered as a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) with AID," the US Agency for International Development, said Bishara Bahbah, its new director.

UPA, which was recently merged with the Jerusalem Fund, is a Palestinian charitable organisation involved in fundraising for educational, social and otherwise charitable activities benefiting primarily West Bank and Gaza Palestinians. One of the most recent activities of the Washington-based institution is the expenditure of US 400,000 dollars on a nursing college in the West Bank. UPA's fruitful fundraising efforts on behalf of needy Palestinians, both from individual sources in the US and elsewhere, including US 1.1 million dollars from the Saudi king and Saudi prince, are seen as only a hint of what can be done in the future.

UPA has a "dual purpose", said Bishara Bahbah, which is "to tap on some of the profits that are being collected by the American companies doing business in the Middle East" while, on the other hand, to use this money in "helping Palestinians everywhere, but particularly those in the occupied territories and Lebanon." If, for that purpose, UPA collects "less than one-tenth of one percent of what these companies make in profit in the Middle East, it would go a long way with the projects we have in mind," said Bahbah. UPA, he stressed, is strictly a non-political, charitable and tax exempt organisation, aimed solely at helping Palestinian individuals and institutions.

Although UPA intends to target American corporations doing business in the Middle East, Bishara said, "most of our resources have come so far from outside of the US." Bahbah was referring to a banquet held by UPA in Saudi Arabia late last year at which the Saudi king contributed US one million dollars. The banquet took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and was hosted by Prince Salman, the governor of the Riyadh province, who donated US 100,000 dollars himself. Bishara said this doesn't alter their original plan of raising funds in the US, but "we have to learn how to walk before we can run," he said in quoting Dr Mohammed Tarbush, Chairman of UPA's Board of Directors. Others on the same board include Rhonda Salem of Washington, DC; Afaf Nasr of Long Island, New York; Isam Salah and Sami Jadallah, two lawyers operating now in Dubai and Geneva respectively.

Other contributions have continued to come from individuals in the US. UPA, Bishara said, encourages such contributions and has been running ads in a variety of magazines, newspapers and journals in the US in which they solicit such contributions. "The results have been encouraging. We receive contributions on an almost daily basis," he said. Bahbah said that much of the money comes from "people whom we never met with".

In addition to being registered as a tax exempt and charitable organisation, UPA recently became the first Arab-American organisation to acquire the status of a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO). As a PVO, the Agency, alongside few other such organisations, can apply for funds from the US Agency for International Development (AID) for use in its planned projects (contingent upon Israeli approval).

There are about 161 PVOs registered with AID, seven of which are American Jewish organisations, such as the United Jewish Appeal, Hadassah, Sheari Tsedek and Bikor Cholim hospitals in Jerusalem. The status of a PVO "qualifies us to apply for grants from the US government, particularly from the budget of AID," Bahbah said, adding that it is only fair that part of the taxes paid by Arab-Americans in the US "go to the places of our origin". PVOs apply for grants from the AID budget which are either approved or rejected based on the project suggested. The dollar amounts involved can be in the millions. Besides UPA, however, there are American PVOs who function on the West Bank and Gaza, such as AMIDEAST, AFSC, ANERA and others.

In pursuit of its objectives, UPA will have to deal with the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. "The same laws that apply to American organisations operating in the occupied territories," Bahbah said, "will have to apply to us." Bahbah added, "The only project that we had to deal indirectly with Israel about is UPA's sponsored nursing college which will be an extension of al-Maqassed hospital." During the August 10 meeting of UPA's Board of Directors, it was decided to inform al-Maqassed hospital that "UPA is officially committing US 400,000 dollars in the coming several months for the nursing college." Although it may be necessary later on to open an office in the territories in order to monitor the organisation's projects there, for the time being a representative will be sent there to do the same when necessary.

The nursing college will be a four-year college to train registered nurses and will be attached to al-Maqassed hospital. UPA believes, Bishara said, that "there is a need for well-qualified nurses in the occupied territories," and thus they have decided to help sponsor the project. Of course this necessitated applying for a permit from the Israeli authorities. One was received and the foundations for the college have already been laid. In addition to assistance for al-Maqassed hospital, UPA has helped al-Ahli Arab hospital, the Hakawati theatre company, the Galilee Society for Health Services and many others. A copy of a telex sent to UPA by Dr Amal Shamma' in Beirut details how money sent by UPA to Shamma' was used to help Palestinians during what became known as the "Camps war" in that city. Among the items purchased with the money are such necessities as "clothing, mainly underwear, children's clothes, soap, disinfectants, water containers, diapers, milk, blankets and medicine..."

Bahbah said that Palestinians in need of UPA's assistance should apply directly to their main office in Washington, DC. Through articles and advertisements, Bishara said, "we are trying to spread the word ...so that all institutions and individuals may have a fair chance at applying for assistance." Bahbah said there is a very limited budget, however, for student scholarships. The main area of interest to UPA is development projects, he said.

The UPA was obviously patterned after the influential United Jewish Appeal (UJA). Although only a few years old, UPA, when fully grown may turn out to be like the UJA, if only in its ability to raise funds, In 1983, UJA is reported to have raised US 660 million dollars. They expect to increase that to US one billion this year.

Local Reactions

Although it is five years old, most of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories as well as most national Palestinian institutions have not yet heard of UPA. Until last year, few organisations in Palestine had received UPA support.

UPA officials admit that apart from the nursing college, UPA's contribution in the occupied territories have been modest. Bahbah assured that with AID contributions UPA's 1986 support should be considerably increased.

UPA's plan to help build a nursing college at the Maqassed hospital in Jerusalem is highly praised. Dr Rustum Namari, a member of Maqassed's executive board, told *Al Fajr* that the new nursing college would be helpful to Maqassed and the whole region. Namari explained that the nursing college, which would be completed in 1987, will cost cost over US$2 million. He said that in addition to fulfilling a local need for trained qualified nurses, the new building would house the hospital staff who have been residing in the hospital's main quarters. "With the closure of the Hospice hospital we have been in need of many extra beds. With the hospital staff finding other residence, we can spare many more beds," he said.

Most of the organisations contacted by *Al Fajr* expressed an appreciation for UPA's support but expressed the need for much more help. "With a yearly budget of US 82,000 dollars we need more help than US 1000 dollars," said Anis al-Qaq of the Nuzha/el-Hakawati theatre. Al-Qaq said he hoped UPA understands the need to wholeheartedly support cultural institutions. ■

Yediot Aharonot and MaAriv (generally referred to as "the afternoon papers") are the two most widely read newspapers in Israel. Serving their readers a daily concoction of sensational news stories and right-wing harangues, they stand in sharp contrast to the generally more staid (and liberal) morning papers; ie, HaAretz, Davar *and* Al Hamishmar. *Hadashot, a relative newcomer, falls between the two, for although it is sensationalist, its editorial policy is generally much more liberal than its afternoon competitors.*

The article below deals with the response of the Israeli press (specifically Yediot Aharonot*) to the September 3 killing of a reserve soldier from Kibbutz Beit Oren in the Hebron Casabah; he and five other soldiers were stationed there to prevent Israeli settlers from re-entering a home following the eviction of a group of MK squatters from the same site at the end of August.*

The cartoons printed on this page were all taken from the Israeli press during the first week of September and reveal the difference of attitude between the afternoon papers and the morning papers. — **Translator.**

Ma ariv, **September 5. Background: The Hebron Casabah. The caption reads: 'Peres: The main thing is to keep a cool head."**

The Yellow Press

by Levy Morav

Yesterday [September 4], the Tel Aviv Journalists' Association held a conference on Kahanism and the role of the media (both print and electronic) in halting the phenomenon... An hour before the conference was to begin, the "afternoon papers" [ie, *Yediot Aharonot* and *MaAriv]* arrived on my desk. I could not believe my eyes!

Again and again I stared at *Yediot Aharonot*. The front page was red. Under the newspaper's mast was the following headline; "Bloody [Wednes]Day in Hebron" printed in white letters on a red background. Beneath the headline there was a picture of the attempt to resuscitate the late Avraham Sorek immediately after he was stabbed. Beneath the photo there was another headline: "IDF Soldier Stabbed to Death." And the revelry did not end there.

On page three there was a banner headline reading: "In the Footsteps of the Wave of Terrorism." The article below the headline contained the responses of the army chief-of-staff, Peres and Sharon [to the Hebron slaying]. And there was yet another picture of the site of the murder. *Yediot Aharonot* did not stop beating the drum on the centre spread of its news sections (pages eight and nine) where it printed three large colour photographs related to the slaying. But for some reason, there was no blood and gore in the pictures. The headline reads: "Terror in Hebron: The Day of Knives and Blood." Once again, the headline is in white characters on a red background. On the lefthand side of the page there is a picture of MK Geula Cohen. Before the blood had dried, she made her way to the Hebron Casabah where she supervised the [construction of a] monument in memory of the late Avraham Sorek.

And if that's not enough, *Yediot* continued to revel in blood in its daily news magazine — 24 Hours — the front page of which is adorned with the following headline: 'Yesterday's Bloody Events in the Hebron Casabah." There is also a photo of an Arab [youth] being arrested and an article by Roni Shaked entitled: "The Knife was Thrust into the Back of the Soldier on Guard, His Blood Spurted Out and it was Impossible to Save him."

What about *MaAriv*? The situation here is a wee bit better. First of all, there's no red ink splashed over the front page. But as for the headline, may God protect us: "Avraham Sorek was Murdered When a Terrorist's Knife Pierced His Heart." Who thinks up these headlines? How does he feel the next day when he sees them on the front page of the paper?

In contrast to *Yediot Aharonot*, *MaAriv* did not continue to revel in blood and gore on its inside pages. On page three there is an objective and professional account of what happened in Hebron by Avinoam Bar Yossef. However, like *Yediot*, *MaAriv* could not do without a few words about Geula Cohen who is quoted as saying: "I saw the puddle of blood and began to feel ill. Then I fainted."

Now MK Cohen had a good reason to faint. Because of her and her friends, the Israeli army stationed soldiers to guard an empty and idiotic home in the Hebron Casabah. Because of Geula Cohen and company, our soldiers became sitting ducks for any murderer with a knife at the ready.

But what can one expect of Ms. Cohen? For her, even a change in the state's currency is an opportunity to bemoan the situation of the settlements in the occupied territories. But what kind of newspaper sees fit not to ask Ms. Cohen if she doesn't feel responsible for the unnecessary death of a member of Kibbutz Beit Oren?

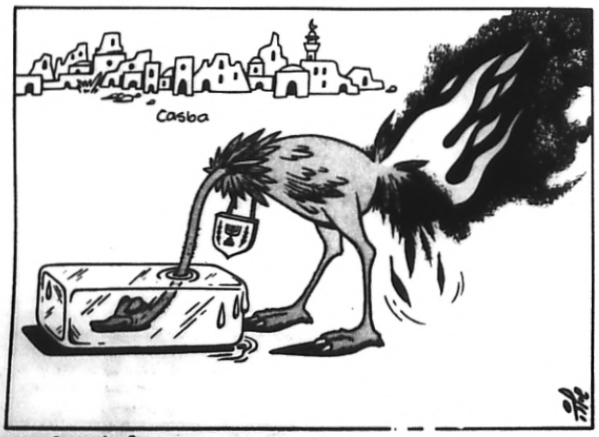
The members of the Journalists' Association can sit for days discussing the threat posed by Rabbi Kahane. Editors and journalists can strain their minds, make lists, offer proposals — but whatever they decide isn't worth much if the competition over which newspaper is "yellower," continues. No action against Kahane and racism can compete with front pages like those printed yesterday. The newspaper headlines are doing more for Kahane than 1000 rallies. The representatives of *MaAriv* and *Yediot Aharonot* can put forward suggestions about how to deal with Kahane, or about ways to battle against threats to Israeli democracy and freedom of speech, but a few more front pages like yesterday's and Kahane can retire...

Fortunately, the morning papers are a different story. One ought to know when to praise the few remaining voices of sanity in the sea of madness that is rapidly engulfing the press. *Davar* ran the following subheadline: "Settlers are Preparing to Enter Tens of Homes in Hebron in Response to the Murder at the MKs' house in the Casabah." I suppose that these homes will now have to be guarded by hundreds of reserve soldiers who will once again become sitting ducks for Arab murderers. *Al Hamishmar's* front page headline was: "A Soldier was Stabbed to Death and His Mate Was Injured While Guarding a Home in the Casabah Against the Entry of Settlers."

HaAretz's headline was: "One IDF Soldier Stabbed to Death and One Severely Injured in the Hebron Casabah."

But the real surprise yesterday was from a paper *Yediot Aharonot* and *MaAriv* consider "yellow". *Hadashot* devoted its front page to the murder; the headline: "The Soldier Stabbed in the Casabah Dies." There was a picture of the site of the murder and the murdered man. But if that's yellow, then *Yediot Aharonot* is deep yellow. It's a shame and disgrace to the profession of journalism, to the members of the Journalists' Association and to the two afternoon papers, especially *Yediot Aharonot*. If that's how the "newspaper of the nation" [the *Yediot* byline] looks, it's no wonder the nation looks the way it does.

So do me a favour, brother journalists. Halt your symposium against Kahane and fascism. Start cleaning up your own homes. First of all, you can start at the offices of *Yediot Aharonot*. *MaAriv* also ought to stop to consider just where it's headed. (Translation: Levy Morav, Al Hamishmar, September 5, 1985). ■



Davar September 6

The Woman Prisoner

by Izat al-Ghazawi

A pale man with blue eyes studied her as she huddled in the comfortable seat of the bus. She pressed herself against the windows and he soon turned away with evident nervousness and sat in a nearby seat. Um Saber wondered to herself if the man had an aversion to her. Perhaps he thought that her black dress was dirty and thus preferred to sit far away from her. she did not think about it too much, for the minutes of waiting had robbed her of her power to concentrate on any subject. Despite her certainty that the bus carried the number "22", a fact which three Arab labourers whom she had seen in the central bus station had confirmed for her, she nevertheless felt a secret anxiety. What if she made a mistake in the directions that the kind Abu Hosni had given her? She was to get off at the seventh stop and make certain that the area was surrounded by plains. The prison would be standing on the right side, a large yellow building surrounded by a tall barbed-wire fence.

The bus stopped in front of a yellow plastic awning and she felt her heartbeat race as she watched some of the passengers get off and vanish like a memory in the throng. This was the first stop then. Where would the next six stages of the jouney lead? Would her hearbeat speed up more and more at each stop? Would her great old chest be able to bear all the commotion? As the bus droned on, the first stop disappeared like a phantom and left no more than the dim image of a yellow awning and wide streets which strange people crossed as if they came from another world. Um Saber took one of the seven beads that were in her left pocket and put it in her right pocket.

The street was again moving with her with a strange languor, and glued to the window, she felt as if she were a lone orphan with no connection to this world that was swiftly passing before her. The second stop intensified her feeling of being a lone traveller without a friend, for the youth who had shared the seat with her became restless and chose another place.

The bus was a moving prison from which people were released at each stop. She was not able to open the window despite her continuous attempts. With her trembling hand, she groped in her left pocket and found only one bead left. Was this then to be the meeting, after almost a year of estrangement? The distance to the last stop was terribly long. The hills gave way to plains which stretched for miles and in the sky white birds arched their wings as they departed for the coast as if by appointment.

The sight of the old yellow building and the barbed-wire fence deprived her of a moment of reflection. She regretted that she could not follow the flocks of departing birds. She stretched her hand to her breast as if to remove from it a feeling of ill will that obstinately pestered her. Despite the trees scattered here and there around the building, she could not shake off the feeling of emptiness and sterility that enveloped the entire area. The prison was not at all as she had imagined it would be in her dreams, for it was much larger than she had thought and was not a deep hole in the ground, but rather squatted at the intersection and loomed over the plain.

The bus driver looked at her sharply as she stumbled on her way to the door. She could not read any deranged thoughts in his eyes, but she nevertheless firmly grasped the nearby iron bar of the door before taking her first step down the stairs. The bus jerked backwards then shot forward slightly. She looked reprovingly at the driver who paid no attention, as if the movement was a natural thing or necessary to the driving of the bus. Nevertheless, she felt a sort of satisfaction because she had not fallen and in the next instant she was quickly crossing the road and approaching the black gate.

The three guards noticed the woman standing silently. One of them opened the gate and pointed at her. The courtyard was empty except for a few soldiers standing in the shadow of the great building. Among them stood a girl in uniform. Um Saber became confused before heading toward one of the wooden seats that were scattered around the courtyard and calmly sitting. Would any of the soldiers ask about the scheduled time of her visit? The girl approached her and Um Saber smiled at her as if to let her know that she wanted to ask her a question, but the girl pulled out a notebook from her pocket as soon as she arrived and propped her right leg on the edge of the wooden seat.

"Good morning."

What friendliness was this that the girl was showing?

"Good morning."

"Well then, who are you visiting here?

"My son... my son Saber."

"What's his full name?"

"Saber Ahmed Abdel-Salam."

"Do you know his number?"

"No... this is the first time I've been allowed to visit him."

"Well then, what's your name?"

"Amina Abdel-Salam."

"Good. Forty minutes. You came early."

She heard a long buzzing sound issue from the great gate, which opened to a human wave which lined up in front of the window of a nearby booth. In the distance, an angry motor growled, the noise of which slowly faded away. It seemed to Um Saber that men, women, and children were emerging from the desert plain and she wondered what it could be other than this great prison that brought them all together in one place. Had they come to dispel some of its desolation and loneliness?

But what would she say to Saber? Saber...God...Would her aged eyes become darkened as with kohl at the sight of the head of the house after all this time? She felt that she wanted nothing more than to see him, but she would tell him about a lot of things too. She would tell him about Aisha's small son. Your wonderful sister Aisha, Saber. Did you know that she hasn't worn a speck of kohl since you disappeared behind the walls of the prison? But she doesn't want to come visit you! Perhaps she is right. She says that God and freedom are a glorious combination. Either they are together for eternity or else they are searching for one another to unite, also for eternity. Although I don't understand everything the educated Aisha says, I still feel that she's right.

She would not forget, of course, to tell him about the first wedding party in five years! The village was transformed into a wedding and everyone went off to the threshing floor. Even she, Um Saber, donned a silk-embroidered caftan and went. One of the youths took her by the hand and walked her there step by step. He was close to thirty and she asked him why he hadn't married yet. He answered: "I married another woman, the same woman that your son, Saber, married a long time ago."

He noticed as she took her hand and put it into her pocket for a moment that she dared not look at his face. But she said in her clear voice: "She's a beautiful woman anyway!" Only to herself did she admit that the price to be paid was long years of suffering that ended in death. To herself also she hoped that this strong, quiet young man would pass like a cloud that no eye that might harm him would see. He could not read the significance behind her contemplation, so he nudged her hand gently and said jokingly:

"Will you marry me, Um Saber?"

She patted him gently on the shoulder and said nothing. The sight of all the people gathered on the great threshing floor had brought back the old memory which had bound her for nearly forty years to the man who had chosen her. Dozens of women leaped over the clean tiled floor and asked her to sit, so she chose a small spot and smiled as if hoping that they would all sit by her side. El-Hadja Safia, the mother of the bride, bent down to kiss her head then glanced attentively at the silent faces and shouted, "Come on, girls...Sing!"

But not one voice rang out over the silence which Sheikh Sadek dispelled from his seat on the well:

"How fortunate is the heart that has no troubles. How fortunate is the heart free from cares."

Um Saber was not comfortable in the anxious silence that pervaded the place, so she asked the women to continue singing, while she got up and sat next to Sheikh Sadek who had broken out in tears. After his wife had passed away a few months ago, no one was left to fill his house for him. Even his three sons had been prohibited from returning.

"The prohibition has ended, Um Saber."

"Yes."

"We have gone separate ways."

She waited a moment until she felt that he had calmed down: "The identity is still there, Sheikh Sadek."

She had not expected that he would become excited, for she had thought that his tears would have relieved him of some of his bitter feelings. She squeezed his trembling hand as if to send a message. "The scattering doesn't frighten me, Sheikh. What frightens me is the loss of identity. The loss of will of those who have scattered after long resistance frightens me. The breaking up of homes frightens me, and the bullets that kill."

Continued on page 15

Palestinian newspapers followed closely this week the latest repressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The renewed attacks on the camps in Lebanon received special attention from the Palestinian press. Of special concern was the visit by the head of the Lebanese forces Elie Hobeika.

The usual conservative *Al Quds* daily called Hobeika the butcher of Sabra and Shatila. *Al Mithaq* daily which normally supports Syrian policy was opposed to Hobeika's visit and indirectly attacked Syria for being vague in its position towards Lebanon.

Egypt's Return to the Arab Ranks

Egypt's return to the Arab fold is a strategic aim of the Palestinian political move. This aim was formulated clearly during the 16th and 17th PNC sessions. Since Egypt's current policy tries to distance itself further from Camp David, the PLO is trying to enhance this Egyptian step. Keeping Egypt out means the perpetration of the tremendous flaw caused by Camp David. No actual Arab success is possible without Egypt. And Egypt also cannot continue to live under the historic error represented by Camp David.

On the basis of this a Palestinian delegation went to Cairo to meet with Egyptian officials.

AL FAJR
September 5

Amal Aggressions

The aggressions launched by Amal on the Palestinian camps are inseparable from Amal's programme to find a solution based on sectarianism. This goal contradicts the democratic national programme sought by the Lebanese Democratic National Front and supported by the Salvation Front. Amal, which seeks to destroy the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and then the National Front, ignores the fact that this is an impossible mission.

AL MITHAQ
September 5

Arab or American Guarantees!

For many years, the Arab side turned to the US for American guarantees and pledges before entering into direct negotiations with Israel. The guarantees were the withdrawal of Israel from the territories occupied in 1967, the halt to the settlement activity and a declaration that it is illegal. The US used to tell the Arab side that guarantees are useless. Thus the US told the whole world that the ball was in the Arab court.

The opposite is happening now. The US is asking for Arab guarantees that the dialogue would lead to direct negotiations with Israel. We, in turn, would like to say to the US, what is the use of dialogue if there are advance conditions?

The PLO-Jordan position now is based on firm foundations. The dialogue with the US does not mean the start of negotiations with Israel. The PLO and Jordan declared also that direct negotiations are to be conducted within the framework of an international conference attended by all concerned parties. The US has to stop trying to evade the issue. Everyone knows now that the ball is in the US-Israeli court.

AL QUDS
September 6

A Word to the Danish Guest

Most European countries are practically aligned with Israel. These same countries are less aligned in their mass media. They show an understanding of the Arab position, yet sympathise with Israel. Western policy makers realise they are in a dilemma. They feel that an injustice has been done to the Palestinian people and at the same time that they pay this lip service to the Arabs, they are aligned with Israel. The Danish Prime Minister declared during his current visit to Israel that the Palestinians should be free to choose their own representatives. We very much appreciate such a statement. But we have to make these two remarks: First, we have only one 'representative'... namely the PLO. Second, he said he sees no need for an international conference and expressed hope that Murphy's visit will give results. To this we reply that we insist on an international conference because the US has lost its neutrality and its ability to be a mediator. It is deeply involved in supporting all Israeli policies. As for Murphy all indications are that he is turning around himself. No change took place in the US position toward the PLO. The US hopes that the Arab weakness will lead to more Palestinian concessions.

AL FAJR
September 7

Hobeika and Sin

We asserted and still assert that the solution to the Lebanese crisis cannot be achieved unless the situation in Lebanon is decided in favour of the progressive forces. The policy of reconciliation sought by Syria between the nationalist and isolationist forces will not lead Lebanon to unity. The proof is the explosive security conditions in Lebanon because of the contradictions. We think that the Syrian role does not conform with reality. One party in Lebanon has to disappear. And the candidate is the isolationist party.

We also think that receiving Elie Hobeika in Syria is a sin committed by the Syrians against the Palestinian people and its nationalist forces. It is to be added to Syria's sin in giving Amal the green light to launch its assault on the Beirut camps.

AL MITHAQ
September 11

Israeli Measures

We have said more than once that Kahanism has set its roots deep in Israeli society. It is not merely a phenomenon, but it is an official trend adopted by the Israeli government against the Arab residents with the aim of emptying the land of its owners. The new Israeli measures are only in response to the settlers' demands, which meet with the objectives of the 'Kach' movement led by the extremist Kahane. In view of these measures, we cannot draw a line between the official policy and the practices of Kahane and the settlers. The current Israeli policy is the result of extremism inside Israel.

But Israel is mistaken if it thinks that its measures will cause the Arabs to despair and abandon their national rights.

AL MITHAQ
September 9

"Peace for Land" Formula

Arafat's call for trading land for peace falls within the context of peace efforts undertaken during the last few years. Since 1974, when the PLO opted for a political solution, there have been so many statements by the PLO calling for giving a chance to the peace efforts before it is too late. Despite this, Israel and the US are still adamant in their position. During the recent round of peace efforts, all that the US could do was to return the political situation to square one and create the impression that the ball is now in the Arab court. The least that could be said about the American attitude is that it has lost its credibility. The Israeli pressures are responsible for the change in the American position. This change does not help the peace efforts. And the US should take into account that time is running out.

AL QUDS
September 11

Rabin Beats War Drums

Rabin

Continuing to foster the impression that an Israeli-Syrian war is in the offing, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, during a visit to the Golan Heights on September 10, warned Syria against launching a war against Israel. "Syria alone does not constitute a military threat to Israel," Rabin said, speaking at a rally at the Bnei Yehuda settlement. "The Israeli army is a strong army and woe to the Syrians if they delude themselves into thinking that cuts in the defence budget have decreased the army's ability to withstand Syrian threats." This was the third time in the past three weeks that top Israeli officials have issued such a warning to Syria.

Rabin went on to say that the army was ready "in the event that the Syrian leadership makes a fatal mistake." The next day, Defence Ministry sources were quick to dispel the impression left by Rabin, claiming that there were no indications that Syria was preparing an attack against Israel.

According to a report in *Al Hamishmar* on September 12, the Syrian army transferred two divisions from Lebanon to the Golan Heights over the summer, upsetting the balance of forces on the border. The Israeli army responded by beefing up its forces and Rabin's remarks were made in this context.

At the same time, Rabin appears to be intent on maintaining an atmosphere of imminent confrontation in order to check any moves for reducing the Defence Ministry's budget. During his stint as prime minister (1974-1977), the Israeli government regularly heated up the situation on the Israeli-Syrian border to deflect public attention from domestic issues. Given the present economic crisis, growing unemployment and the erosion of wages by 18 percent in the past five months, Rabin appears to be apprehensive about the defence establishment's ability to continue to withstand budget cuts.

Police Slow In Investigating Fatal Shooting

Omar Abed Ja'abis, 19, from Sawahreh village near Bethlehem died September 4 at the Maqassed Hospital in Jerusalem. He died after being shot by a local resident following a quarrel August 4. Two other Sawahreh residents were also injured in the incident.

A head clerk in the district attorney's office in Bethlehem told *Al Fajr* that the district attorney received a complaint concerning the incident September 9. He instructed police to arrest the resident accused of shooting Ja'abis. He refused to give more details about the proceedings.

The quarrel occurred between Abdullah Sus, also a resident of Sawahreh, and residents of the village. It reportedly broke out when Sus' brother Jamil knocked over a goat with his car. Hisham Ja'abis, who owned the goat, wrote down the vehicle's licence number in order to file a complaint with the police. In retaliation, residents told *Al Fajr* Sus beat Ja'abis and threatened to shoot him. (Sus is believed to have been issued a gun by the Israeli civil administration. Normally, residents of the occupied territories are denied weapons of any kind.)

One Sawahreh resident told *Al Fajr* that Abdullah Sus arrived at the scene accompanied by several armed civilians and opened fire indiscriminately at residents of Sawahreh, wounding three men. Omar Ja'abis was wounded in the upper right side, and the bullets penetrated his kidney, liver and intestines. Mohammed Mousa Abu Usba', 27, was injured in the stomach and several bullets entered his body. One bullets is still in his body and doctors cannot extract it for fear of leaving him paralysed. Mohammed Mousa Ali Abu Usba', 57, was also shot in the abdomen and is still suffering from internal bleeding.

Since the incident, three military jeeps have been stationed around Sus' home, ostensibly to protect him. Sawahreh residents refuse to reconciliate with his family demanding instead that the Sus family members involved in the incident be evicted from the village.

Army

Continued from page 1

Ghuzlan, who heads the Arab Lawyers Committee in the occupied territories, said the army is conducting itself in such a provocative manner in the big cities that it is endangering the life of citizens. He said that in Ramallah, for example, soldiers virtually whisper at people to stop, but when the person does not hear them and keeps walking, the soldiers shoot at him, claiming he failed to heed orders to stop and ran away.

Ali Mohammad al-Rifa'yeh

Adel Ghanem, head of the Federation of Arab Workers Unions in the West Bank, told *Al Fajr* the army actions are part of a policy of the government "intended to pressure the local population to emigrate." Dr Haidar Abd al-Shafir, a Palestinian physician in Gaza who also heads the Red Crescent Society in the Strip, added that the Israeli "iron fist" policy has been in existence since the 1967 occupation. He said this policy is part and parcel of the Israeli position "which denies the basic rights of the Palestinian people and insists that the Palestinian land is Israeli and the Palestinians are nothing more than strangers here."

Nablus' elected Mayor, Bassam Shaka'a, who was dismissed by the military government in 1982 along with most of the West Bank mayors, affirmed the belief that the Labour party is acting in a harsher manner than its Likud partner in the government. He said the Labour Party, under media cover that it is seeking peace with its neighbours, is using this opportunity to "crush the nationalist forces among the Palestinian people and to increase its policy of land expropriation and settlement building." Shaka'a said world public opinion and the media are now concentrating on what is perceived as peace moves in the Middle East which leaves the Israeli government free to suppress the local population. The Israeli cabinet last month resolved to return to deportation and administrative detention of Palestinians as well as collective punishment to rid the land of its nationalist leaders. These measures, which have already led to the administrative detention of 69 persons and deportation of one with 14 more in line, received little attention from the world media.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military clamped a curfew on the village of Sa'ir in the Hebron district September 10 after local youths heaved stones at an Israeli vehicle passing near the village, Israel Radio reported. The car's windshield was smashed but no one was hurt, the radio said. The curfew lasted into the afternoon.

The village of Burqa in the Jenin area was also placed under military curfew September 10 after stones were hurled at Israeli vehicles. Army troops descended on the village, sealed it off and began searching for the stone-throwers. No arrests were reported.

In the village of Sura in the Nablus district, youths threw burning clothes and stones at an Israeli vehicle, Israel Radio said. Large forces of army troops and border police cordoned off the village and set up roadblocks to its entrances. The radio reported that the village was sealed off not only because of the stone-throwing, but to enable security forces to search for an Arab-owned car that had reportedly defied soldiers' orders to halt at a roadblock. Another attack occurred at Anabta, on the Tulkarm-Nablus road, when local youths stoned two Israeli buses, one belonging to Egged and the other to Dan companies. No injuries or damage were reported. Troops searched the area and detained two youths.

In Ramallah, troops imposed a curfew on part of the city after a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle parked in the Government Hospital's parking lot. No injuries or damage were reported. Troops scoured the area, but no arrests were reported. On September 9, an Israeli soldier was wounded when stones were hurled at a foot-patrol at al-Aroub refugee camp north of Hebron. His wounds were described as light. Troops swiftly clamped a curfew on the village to search for the attackers.

A bomb went off at West Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda section September 7. No injuries or damage were reported but several Arabs who happened to be in the area were arrested and held overnight for interrogation. Jewish zealots who are followers of racist Kach leader Meir Kahane held a spontaneous demonstration at the site demanding expulsion of Arabs. Police reportedly intervened to break up the demonstration.

12 year old Sadi Abu Sneineh underwent heart surgery.

Meanwhile, a curfew imposed on the old market area of Hebron where the two soldiers were stabbed September 3 was lifted late September 11. Reports from Hebron said the 10,000 residents of the market area, known as Casabah, and businesses there suffered serious setbacks because of the nine-day curfew. Hebronites who were outside the curfew zone were said to be exerting effort to help their inflicted neighbours.

THE COURAGE TO CARE

Over half of the four million Palestinians are registered refugees, with as many as 764,000 still living in 61 refugee camps dispersed throughout the Middle East.

Political issues aside, these forgotten, homeless, and dispossessed Palestinians—men, women and children, need your urgent support.

United Palestinian Appeal, Inc. is taking the lead in helping to alleviate the suffering and pain of these people by providing them with adequate health care, housing, education and other social and humanitarian services.

We appeal to you to help us achieve these goals. Your investment, no matter how modest in allaying human suffering, is never too little or too late.

You Can Make A Difference

Send your tax-deductible contributions to:
United Palestinian Appeal, Inc. • 2100 M St., NW, Suite 408
Washington, DC 20037 • (202) 659-5077

UPA

AL FAJR — Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: ONE YEAR: US$50.00

NAME. . . . . .

ADDRESS . . . . . .

ENCLOSED IS A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT . . . . . .

DATE . . . . . .

SIGNED . . . . . .

Mail to:
Al Fajr Palestinian Weekly
PO Box 19315
East Jerusalem
Via Israel

In US:
Al Fajr Palestinian Weekly
2025 Eye St. NW, Suite 925
Washington DC, 20006 USA

An Israeli soldier approaches a group of Palestinian youths gathered in the Hebron market and orders them to disperse. Two such youths were shot in the street last week by soldiers.

September 4, 1985

LAWYERS WANT UNION

Six lawyers from the West Bank and Jerusalem appealed to the Israeli High Court, requesting permission to form a professional union. Israel Radio said the appeal will be looked into by a three-judge panel.

GAZANS ARRESTED FOLLOWING AMBUSH

Israeli forces arrested a number of Gaza residents suspected of being involved in an automatic gunfire attack on the car of a Jewish settler from Neve Dekalim in the Gaza Strip. Assailants fired on the car from an orange grove on the main road to Gaza.

SETTLERS GRAB 20,000 DUNUMS

Israeli settlers seized an estimated 20,000 dunums of land in the village of Dhahriyeh in the Hebron district and closed the area with barbed wires. The head and *mukhtars* of Dhahriyeh protested to the authorities against this move and threatened to take the case to court.

DHEISHEH TEACHER DISMISSED

Mahmoud Nimr Odeh, a teacher from Dheisheh refugee camp in the Bethlehem area, was recently dismissed from his job by the Israeli authorities for unspecified reasons. Odeh has been a teacher at the Buhturi School in Jericho for the last 6 months.

WOMEN DETAINEES DEMAND SEPARATION FROM CRIMINALS

Palestinian women imprisoned at Neve Tertza on political charges are demanding separate quarters from criminal prisoners, said lawyer Walid al-Fahoum, who is representing the detainees.

September 5, 1985

2 PETROL BOMBS TOSSED AT BUS

Two petrol bombs were hurled at an Israeli bus as it passed through Nablus, military sources reported. The windshield of the bus was smashed, but the bombs failed to explode, the sources said. No one was hurt in the incident.

GAZAN GETS 7 YEARS

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Taha Mohammed Hafe al-Loh, 26, of Gaza to 7 years in prison and 4 years suspended on charges of membership in a Palestinian organisation and weapons training.

RAMALLAH COURT JAILS 2

An Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced Mohammed Mousa Hammad of Silwad to 1 year imprisonment and 3 years suspended on security charges. The court also sentenced Ibrahim Issa Sulem of Urtas to 5.5 months in prison and a IS100,000 fine. The two were charged with security offences.

September 6, 1985

BOMB DEFUSED IN HOLON

A bomb was found and safely dismantled by police sappers in the town of Holon, south of Tel Aviv, Israel Radio reported. The bomb was planted at the entrance to a housing compound, the radio report said.

BOMB EXPLODES IN WEST JERUSALEM

A bomb exploded on Agrippas Street near Mahane Yehuda in West Jerusalem. Police said no one was injured and no damage was done. Israel Radio said 20 Arabs who happened to be in the vicinity were detained for questioning.

STONES THROWN AT BUS

An Israeli bus was stoned as it passed near the Jalazon refugee camp on the main Ramallah-Nablus road, and its windshield was smashed. No one was injured.

September 8, 1985

PEACE NOW ACTIVISTS TOUR HEBRON

A delegation of the Israeli Peace Now Movement visited the city of Hebron and met with deposed mayor Mustafa Abd al-Nabi Natsheh, who briefed them on the situation in the city. Natsheh then accompanied members of the delegation on a tour around the city.

GRENADE THROWN

A hand grenade was tossed at the former building of the Israeli Civil Administration in the village of Mas'adah in the Golan. Israel Radio said no one was injured and no damage was done. Troops cordoned off the area and began a search for attackers.

September 9, 1985

MOUNT ZION PETROL BOMB

A petrol bomb was thrown at a bus stop on Mount Zion in the Old City of Jerusalem. Israel Radio said no one was hurt and no damage was done.

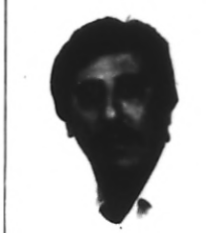
BORDER POLICE UNIT FIREBOMBED

A petrol bomb was tossed at an Israeli border police jeep as it drove on the agricultural road east of the village of Bani Suheila in the Gaza Strip. No injuries or damage were reported. Troops sealed off the area and began a search for the attackers.

PETROL BOMB IN BANK LEUMI

A petrol bomb was found in the Israeli Bank Leumi Branch in Palestine Square in Gaza. Soldiers cordoned off the area and

Mothers and relatives of administrative detainees hold a sit-in at the offices of the International Red Cross in Hebron September 11. They are protesting the arbitrary detentions of their relatives.



Among the detainees held under administrative orders from top to bottom, Qaddoura Mousa – Al Fajr journalist, Walid Abu Haidar, and Jabra Shoumali – head of the Bethlehem University Student Council.

Rev. Odeh Rantisi congratulates a member of the graduating class at a ceremony marking the graduation of women teachers of the handicapped at one of the centres for the handicapped. There are 11 such centres in the West Bank.

discovered that the bomb was already used.

BUS STONED IN SHU'FAT

An Israeli bus en route from Jerusalem to the Neve Ya'coub settlement was stoned as it drove through the neighbourhood of Shu'fat, north of Jerusalem. Israel Radio said no one was hurt.

3 VIGILANTES RELEASED ON BAIL

Three Jewish settlers charged with attacking Arab homes in Hebron were released on bail. Among the three was one of the leaders of the anti-Arab Kach movement headed by racist parliamentarian Meir Kahane.

4 JERUSALEMITES SENTENCED

An Israeli military court sentenced four Jerusalem youths to various prison terms on charges of membership in a Palestinian organisation. Munir Qassem Kamal was sentenced to 2 years in prison and 2 years suspended; Arafat Ghaleb al-Khayyat, Khalil Ahmad al-Hawwash and Najib Ahmad al-Jada' were sentenced to 18 months in prison and a similar suspended sentence.

September 10, 1985

2 NABLUS MEN JAILED

An Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced Rajeh Lutfi Saleh, 19, and Majed Awwad Farraj, 21, both from Talfit in the Nablus area, to 10 months imprisonment and 20 months suspended on security charges.

TOWN-ARREST LIFTED

The Israeli authorities lifted a town-arrest order imposd on Bethlehem unionist George Hazboun. Hazboun, the former deputy mayor of Bethlehem, has been under town-arrest for the past two years.

HALHOUL YOUTH GETS 6 YEARS

An Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced Zeid Mohammed Abu Rayyan of Halhoul in the Hebron area to 6 years in prison on security charges.

BOMB FOUND IN GILO

Israeli police sappers safely dismantled a pipe-bomb planted near a bus stop in the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo, Israel Radio reported. No one was hurt and little damage was done, the radio added.

TULKARM YOUTH FINED, JAILED

An Israeli military court in Tulkarm sentenced Hussein Kamal al-Sheikh to 3 months in prison, 3 years suspended and a IS2 million fine on security charges.

DURA YOUTH CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER

A 17-year-old youth from Dura in the Hebron area was charged in the Jerusalem District Court with stabbing Rabbi Moshe Drak outside Damascus Gate 10 days ago. The youth, whose trial will begin next month, was charged with attempted murder.

Calendar of Events

September 13

Scrabble: Tournaments starting at the YMCA in East Jerusalem. Friday afternoons at 4:00 pm.

Theatre: Children of Spring present *Court for Adults* at the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem. 7:30 pm. (In Arabic). Telephone: 280957, 288189.

September 14

Music: Organ Recital by Arno Schonstedt, Herford, at the Dormition Abbey. Works by Frescobaldi, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn. 8:30 pm. Telephone: 719927.

September 14-15

Conference: The Second International Islamic Information Conference, "Contemporary Social Issues — An Islamic Perspective," at the Los Angeles Mariott Hotel.

September 20-21

Conference: The Palestine Human Rights Campaign will hold its national conference at Chicago's Americana Congress Hotel. Confirmed speakers, according to the PHRC, include Israel Shahak (Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights), Adrien Wing (National Conference of Black Lawyers), Cheryl Rubenberg (Florida International University), and Don Betz (Northeastern Oklahoma University).

September 21

Slide Show: El-Hakawati Theatre Company presents a slide show entitled *Where We Are When We're Not Here!* of the company's tours, both in Palestine and abroad. The slides will be accompanied by music and a discussion. 7:30 pm. At the Nuzha el-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem. Telephone: 280957, 288189.

Woman Prisoner

Continued from page 11

Sheikh Sadek had gone to sleep, beyond all the noise. His lean wrinkled neck rested against the side of the well. She undid her shawl and wrapped it around him, then she carefully raised his head to rest it on the shawl. As for herself, she knotted her dress around her waist and became intoxicated by the smell of the crowd.

The courtyard was teeming with visitors. Some of them sat silently on the wooden seats and others passed the time in whispered conversation. Um Saber felt a strong sense of familiarity as she listened to the language she knew. She saw familiar faces and children warily racing around then running to cling soon after to the hems of their mothers' skirts.

"Amina Abdou Salam," a soldier standing near the booth yelled.

"I'm... I'm Amina."

"Come this way."

The soldier pointed to a darkened corridor. She walked deliberately, using her right hand to feel the wall. But little by little the light penetrated from a small aperture a few metres away and she was able to see her way clearly. The corridor led her to large yard surrounded by a high grillwork fence. A soldier yawned lazily and stretched out his hand to take the paper that she presented to him. He pointed for her to stand by the wall and wait.

Was there another wait? And this heart which beat resoundingly, pounding against her chest, would it be able to wait as well? Saber... I return to you this time and in my throat is a bitterness which has grown with the days. I don't think there is anything left to remove this bitterness. I wonder, are you the prisoner or am I? We are both prisoners, my son. But your prison is less confining than mine. I wonder what your world is like now? You said last time that prison is another world to which one becomes accustomed with time. As for my world, it's you, even though you have made me enter worlds larger than my comprehension. Perhaps, Saber, that was the secret of my power to withstand.

"Saber Ahmed Abdou Salam."

Did the grill approach her or was it she who approached the grill? He stood with his dreamy eyes behind the double grill. There was no more than one metre separating him from her. But where was the touch that would extinguish the suffering of a whole year and which would satisfy the thirst of the eye, the heart, and the trembling? She did not try again after the grill banged against her. But her right index finger remained stuck in one of the holes of the grill and she could not move it. And the smell? Even the distinctive smell had disappeared with the onslaught of visitors and the smell of old scrap, mingled with sweat, eau de cologne, and cigarette smoke had replaced it. With her heart, she was able to cross that stifling wall and to silently and adoringly embrace the dark young man who had been her prison for a long period of her life, although she could not fix that period. She saw the bewilderment which hovered around his eyes. Perhaps he wanted to ask a difficult question which he thought she would not be able to answer and so preferred that the confusion remain, imploring, rather than open a door through which it might leave. She was no longer aware of the people around her. They had become lost in their worlds and had left her to live in hers, in spite of their voices, whispers, and sobs. As for the long stories that she had spun for Saber, they had all disappeared. Aisha, the wedding, El-Hadj Sadek, and the dead had all become, like Um Saber behind the grill, unable to pierce it.

"Visiting time is over..." The dry voice of the soldier reminded her of the sharp pain running through her pinched finger. But she could not believe that a time could pass so easily. She wished that she could stay longer with the next prisoner who had taken Saber's place, but she felt that some woman or child had more right than she to these moments, so she steped back. However, the young man signalled to her... She stood nailed to her spot, seeing in his eyes a hesitant request.

"You're... you're Um Saber?"

"Yes... yes, dear."

"We're in the same cell... He's told me a lot about you... He loves you."

She didn't know how to answer and so remained silent.

"Um Saber..."

"Yes..."

"My wife is in the prison at Ramla... She gave birth to a baby girl three years ago... Has she gotten her out of prison? The little girl, I mean?"

She forced herself to smile at the shawl which buried his face between his shoulders and he stepped back. She followed him with her bewildered gaze as he crossed the damp hall and disappeared from view.

In the bus, the stops no longer had a noticeable existence. They were no more than light tremors which stirred some of the passengers to rise from their seats and feel their way to the exit. Even they became, with their excess of sleep and wakefulness, a part of the flocks of shadows that jumped behind the window pane. And in these flocks of shadows, there was the vague, still unformed image of a small girl which appeared and disappeared, which smiled sometimes and frowned others. But the smile and the frown did not bestow on the image the clear features of a face, despite the screams of a woman in labour behind the walls of the prison. ■

Three Day Seminar in Tantur

Heritage Conference Seeks Islamic-Christian Unity

by Said al-Ghazali

Following three days of forums and active debate on September 8, the conference on Arab Islamic and Christian Heritage in the Holy Land concluded at the Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Studies at Tantur near Bethlehem. The conferees, numbering more than 70 from the Galilee and the West Bank, affirmed their intention not to proselytise or fuel sectarian division. Instead they vowed to deepen mutual understanding between Palestinians of both faiths in the Holy Land.

The conference Preparatory Committee issued five recommendations after conferring with other participants representing various religious and academic institutions. They voted to encourage further research on religious heritage in the Holy Land; to enrich the Tantur library with material on Arab Islamic and Christian heritage; to ask Palestinian intellectuals to take an active part in the pioneering task of overseeing technical and scientific development in Palestine; to call on Palestinan press institutions to maintain Palestinian national unity in all aspects; and to urge sociologists to formulate an educational strategy with the aim of helping Palestinian children hold fast to their Palestinian identity and to prepare themselves to participate effectively in the various causes of society.

During his speech at the final discussion, Greek Catholic Bishop Lutfi Laham, from Jerusalem, said, "There is a need to relay the experience we have had in this conference, the atmosphere of cooperation and family with the Palestinian people through the news media." Laham said future conferences must not only focus on religious affairs, but national issues as well. He said, "I would like to see a concrete impact of this conference and its openness on the Palestinian people." Laham also called for a re-reading of Arab history in order to delete offensive references to Christians. Laham added, "Our unity is not reinforced because we encounter an enemy, [occupation - ed] but because we, Christians and Muslims, have deep-rooted good relations in history."

The Opening Session

At Tantur, Palestinian figures involved in culture, religion and thought assembled September 6 at 3:00 pm. In the opening session, Dr Landrum Boling, director of the Ecumenical Institute, spoke about the negative impacts of scientific developments and technology on the spiritual values. The world has become a small village following radical developments in communication systems. Landrum also pointed to calamities caused by natural disaster. In spite of all the dangers threatening human beings today, Landrum said, we should unite our efforts to fight against violence and oppression. Mutual respect for our two beliefs and principles is needed to remove these dangers.

Fawzi Abdullah, editor of *al-Mawakeb* magazine, spoke about Palestinian culture and the hardships Palestinians encounter when documenting their culture. Abdullah said this conference was an important one for the new details it would offer researchers.

Dr Jiryiz Khouri, head of the Christian Studies Department at Tantur, explained that the conference was not exclusively restricted to academics but that they wanted to reach the Palestinian people everywhere. He stressed that conference participants had no proselyting intentions.

Forums

Five forums were held on the subjects of God in Islamic and Christian divine inspiration; the relations between religion and the state in Islam and Christianity; sociological factors in the rearing of children; the role of Palestinian intellectuals in society; and the role of the press in strengthening respect between Christians and Muslims. What distinguished these forums were the long debates and discussions. Some lecturers did not stay on the subject and delivered irrelevant lectures. There was also repetition concerning statements of doctrine. However, after the first lecture, the participants realised the danger of theological discussion and avoided such sensitive topics from then on. Through discussions Muslims and Christians at the conference learned more about how the other thinks.

Bishop Lutfi Laham, and Dr Mahmoud Abu Katteh a lecturer in the Arabic Department at Bethlehem University, spoke on God and divine inspirations.

Dr Abu Katteh spoke about the descriptions and names given to God in Islam, and explained some verses from the Quran related to the subject. He also clarified the belief of Islamic monotheism saying that Islam does not admit the existence of any form of polytheism. God is the creator and the absolute existence. He created the universe and human beings. His creations never have complete existence in themselves, however. Abu Katteh said that Islam recognises all the prophets as human beings. They were chosen by God to deliver His message.

Judge Mohammed Hubeisheh read some verses from the Quran, about divine inspiration followed by a heated discussion.

The second day of the conference included three forums. One was on the relation between Religion and the State in Islam and Christianity. Father Michael Sabah, the president of Bethlehem University, spoke on principles in the Gospel which define relations between Christianity and the State and between the Church and the State. He also explained the Catholic Church's current stand concerning the Vatican's relations with the State.

Dr Bernad Sabela, a sociologist at Bethlehem University, delivered a lecture entitled "Sociological Upbringing in the Palestinian Society." He explained Palestinian society as a religious, transitional and political society. Sabela also talked about the future and gave opinions on ways to teach the new generation the importance of justice and morality. Dheyab Ayoush gave a critique of Sabela's paper.

Zuhair Karmi, vice president of the College of Science and Technology at Abu-Dis, spoke about the role of the Palestinian intellectual in Palestinian society. He gave a comprehensive introduction about the source of civilisation and its progress. He explained his personal theory about the Palestinian intellectual's role under occupation. His lecture was long and deep. Karmi talked about modern technology and explained that there is no contradiction between heritage or traditional practises and modern technology.

Jack Khazmo, publisher of *al-Bayader* magazine, explained what the press's role should be. He called for the convening of a press conference to create a comprehensive programme for the Palestinian press.

Ali al-Khalili, editor of the literary magazine *al-Fajr al-Adabi*, said that the press is a modern industry which formulates history in the past, present and future. Khalili criticised the absence of a comprehensive programme in the local press. The discussion participants spoke on cooperation between Muslims and Christians since the mandatory period and referred to important figures in the press who helped to bring national unity between Christians and Muslims.

Commentary

Michael Sabah, president of Bethlehem University, told *Al Fajr* that some topics were repeated at the conference, and that Islamic and Christians doctrines are known and set. They are not likely to change as a result of the discussion, he said. "We developed in this conference the act of listening," he said. "I understand now the way that Muslims think. I understand their concept about the Islamic state, and the difference between theory and practice. The psychological barrier has been removed. And we all understand that the main problem is our lack of understanding and our reluctance to listen to others. He added, "These conferences will surely remove Christians fears. Their feeling that they are under certain pressure resulted from the fact that they are minorities in an Islamic society. Illusions such as the belief of Muslims that Christians are privileged by government and the belief of Christians that Muslims do not appreciate their existence were completely dismissed and proved false assumptions during the conference," he said.

Sheikh Tawfiq Assalieh, chairman of the appellate Shari'a [Islamic law — ed] Court in Jerusalem said that the conference was positive. "All religions work for the happiness of human beings who were created by God. So the main objective for Islam and Christianity is the same. The conference urges us to consider the basis of education in our society and to promote the idea that we Muslims and Christians have a long history of coordination and of coexistence. We will continue in like manner. The religious differences do not deserve to be factors in a split," he said.

Christian and Muslim lecturers sit together under a banner proclaiming unity at the heritage conference at Tantur September 6-8.